

Wednesday June 26 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Oman OR 1.00
Albania L 220	Hungary F 200	Pakistan P 70
Algeria D 130	India IN 85	Poland Z 1.50
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Bangladesh B 1.00	Japan J 110	South Africa S 1.00
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Finland F 1.00	Poland Z 1.50	Zimbabwe Z\$ 7.00
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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,589

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The mystery of the missing Kenneth Noye
Private Enemy No 1
G2 with European weather

Climax to the Turville affair
Village voices
Paxman and the rest
Portrait, G2 page 4

Society
Affordable housing
The key
Pages 10

Latest score in the England game tonight: 14,000 - free

John Duncan and Emily Barr

THE best seat at Wembley tonight costs £75. A tout will (illegally) sell you one for £400. But there will be 14,000 people there who have paid precisely nothing for their ticket. Some have probably never been to a football match in their life.

Euro 96 has been one of the biggest corporate hospitality events seen in England, according to the industry. It has been worth around £8 million over the past two weeks, with favours being garnered and tucked away for future use from customers, suppliers, journalists and senior managements.

Richard Joyce, international sales manager of Time magazine, which has bought blocks of tickets for hospitality use, has seen three England matches. "I took a customer to the Scotland game and he took me to England v Spain," he said. When we went the last time, the first person I saw was the media buyer from Lowe Howard Spink, the second was from TMD. I did feel a tinge of guilt at how many suits there were at the Holland game."



What to do if you hate football

- Volunteer to help the Samaritans: German speakers especially welcome
- Go and listen to Harriet Harman's speech during Commons debate on NHS bureaucracy
- Try to get invited to Marie Helvin's party, scheduled without reference to her Euro 96 wallchart at London's Barclay Hotel
- Watch a video. Blockbuster are offering football boxes two for the price of one
- Repeatedly switch your kettle on and off during the match to confuse viewing figures

Battle for the soul of schools

John Carvel
Education Editor

The Government yesterday placed education at the heart of the forthcoming general election campaign with a white paper encouraging all secondary schools to select more pupils by ability — an ideological bridge which Tony Blair's reformist Labour Party refuses to cross.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, emphasised that ministers were not trying to restore a rigid separation of children at 11 into grammar schools and secondary moderns, which were widely discredited in the 1960s.

Comprehensive school governors would be obliged to decide every year how far to move towards selection of pupils by ability or aptitude, but the Government would not impose the system where the local community did not demand it.

Twisting the knife on Labour's embarrassment over Harriet Harman's choice of a grammar school for her son, Mrs Shephard said the evidence of parental demand could be found on the Labour front bench.

Her white paper fell short of the dream set out by the Prime Minister last year of "a grammar school in every town". It included no procedures for forcing parental habit to encourage the admission of more able pupils, and there was no offer of extra funding to build selective schools in areas of comprehensive monopoly under local authority control.

White paper

- More selection of pupils by schools
- New grammar schools encouraged
- Schools may run transport, meals and trancy services
- Councils must give more money to schools
- Allow for grant maintained schools to open nurseries/term-time boarding places



education secretary, said it would have cost at least £2 billion to achieve Mr Major's dream at the expense of an inferior education for 19 out of every 20 children.

"The alternative is that this is a white mouse of a white paper," he said. It might allow schools to select more pupils, but there was no evidence they would do so. Only 41 of the 1,100 grant-maintained schools had made use of their existing power to select up to 10 per cent.

"If that is the case, John Major will be very angry indeed. Mrs Shephard... will be blamed for destroying his dream."

However, it seemed premature last night to conclude that she has fought a successful rearguard action against Mr Major's drive to find a distinctive rightwing education policy. Extra ingredients may yet be put in the Conservative election manifesto.

Mrs Shephard said the Government wanted all schools to

develop distinctive strengths. Temporary incentives for specialist technology and language colleges would become permanent and new specialisms would be introduced, including sports and the arts.

The powers of local education authorities would be further curtailed, with the proportion of budgets delegated to school governors increased from 85 to 95 per cent.

Margaret Tulloch, of the Campaign for State Education, said the proposals "only make sense if seen as party political, intended merely to embarrass Tony Blair and Harriet Harman. Our children deserve better."

The teacher unions said the package was irrelevant to children's educational needs. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Creaming off the most able pupils will lead to a rising underclass."

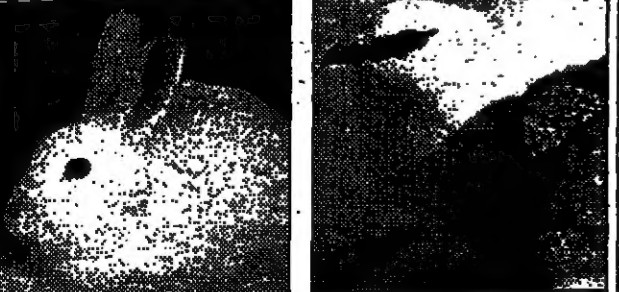
Leader comment, page 8

How to rescue rare species: send them north

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

RARE plants and some tree species will have to be dug up and moved hundreds of miles north if they are to survive the climate change which is raising the temperature in Britain, a government report to be published next week reveals.

Some animals and birds, like mountain hares and ptarmigan, are expected to become extinct altogether. But insects, particularly aphids, butterflies and wasps will thrive in larger numbers. Many butterflies and moths which only occur in southern



Species at risk... the mountain hare and the ptarmigan

counties and are at the northern limit of their range are expected to migrate north. House pests like cockroaches, fleas and mites will increase.

a decade, according to the report, to be published by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, next Tuesday.

By 2050 temperatures are expected to have increased by 1.5 degrees centigrade, which means sensitive plant species will have to move 150 to 250 miles north to find the same conditions in which they thrive now. Mountain-growing species will have to climb 40 to 55 metres a decade to reach the same conditions.

The mountain hare and ptarmigan will die out because they rely on turning white in winter and surviving in the snow where other animals cannot. In future this

habitat will disappear as snow becomes a rarity.

Climate change is a particular problem for Britain's rarer plants and animals, which occupy small environmental niches, and many of which are currently protected by having their homes declared sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

The changes are occurring too fast for them to adapt in the evolutionary sense, and there are no suitable landscapes for them to migrate across. The report says the solution is to create a suitable habitat a few hundred miles north and move them.

The report says that many of the SSSIs cannot be saved

in their present form. They will be invaded by other plant species migrating northwards and lose some of the special features that made them special in the first place.

About 50 of the 505 currently endangered plant species are expected to die out with only a 1 degree centigrade increase in temperature unless special provision is made for them. Sea level rises of 20 to 30 centimetres will affect mudflats and salt marshes, which in turn will damage bird populations. The scientists suggest that sea defences may have to be dismantled in some places to allow these marshes to migrate inland.

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Sketch

In the style of the boardroom bore



Simon Hoggart

MR MAJOR isn't really a political leader at all; he's a chief executive officer in the new global economy...

"No!" yelled the sillier Tories. Then, ad the Conservative...

This is a tricky one. No-one should investigate a woman because she is a politician's wife...

A Scottish Labour MP said, improbably, that he would support England tonight, but asked Mr Major to condemn the tabloid xenophobia.

Or Winston Spencer Major: "And if the British Empire last for a thousand years, men will still say: 'This was a satisfactory result.'"

Letter links chance for businesses to air views on economic policy to plea for donations to party funds

Tory 'questions for cash'

Michael White Political Editor

LEADING British businesses are being offered the chance to put their views on key economic policy...

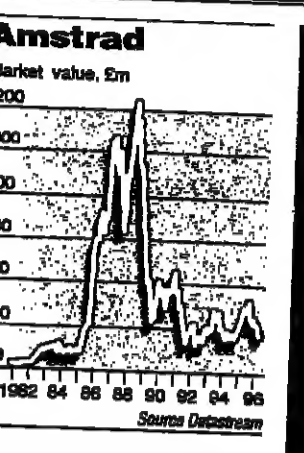
by a dismayed firm. Last night, the MP wrote to Sir Gordon Downey, parliamentary commissioner for standards...

Number 10 policy unit (the Prime Minister's office)? It then asked: "Does your company contribute to the Conservative party?"

Conservative MPs make a similar charge against Labour for its union ties — far more transparent — as they did again at question time yesterday.

Earlier, Tony Blair had highlighted what he called "the activities of the £10 million Tory lie machines" — a reference to the amount of cash the rival party is allegedly going to use in its election campaigning.

As the election looms and medium-size donations of £15,000-20,000 roll in from companies, Dr Mawhinney has managed to clear the party's overdraft and build a war chest that could reach £20 million.



Tycoon ready to end 28 years at head of company he formed when he was 20 and which was valued at £1.2bn before recession took hold



Alan Sugar... from barrow boy to multi-millionaire and owner of Tottenham Hotspur football club

Sugar stands to make £80m from Amstrad sale

ALAN Sugar, the tycoon who brought computers and satellite receivers into millions of British homes, is close to selling his Amstrad master company for £220 million.

and his personal fortune. Mr Sugar was worth almost £900 million in 1988. He is now worth about £150 million.

Mr Sugar is not a committee man and has been scathing about City attitudes to business, so he will not be joining the Paine board, if the deal goes through.

Mr Sugar first made money while at school by delivering papers. He went to work in the statistics department of the education and science ministry but later starting selling bits and pieces for hi-fi

machines and importing car radios. He formed Amstrad when he was 20 and made a fortune by spotting new electronics products with the potential to become mass-market items.

The company doubled in size annually during the 1980s by making products in the Far East and marketing them aggressively in the UK.

Models that started new fashion for computers



Alan Sugar with examples of his low-priced products in 1984

AMSTRAD began business in 1970 with a plant which made plastic hi-fi turntable covers at low prices using an injection moulding process which undercut competitors.

PCW 8256 In the same year, the group launched its first word processor with TV ads showing typewriters falling out of office windows into a skip.

Satellite In 1988 Sugar did a deal with Rupert Murdoch to design and supply equipment to receive the first Sky TV broadcasts in February 1989.

Get more out of life! Train at home for a brighter future with ICS. Thinking about learning something new to improve your life? With ICS, you can train at the pace you want, in your own home.

First night

Sir Les's humour from down under

Robert Yates

Sir Les Patterson Whitehall Theatre

BARRY Humphries' second best-known creation has the kind of looks you wouldn't wish on a gargoyle. Sir Les, Australia's most outspoken diplomat, wears a mass of brown, broken teeth, so outside they chew into his chin; his face is a drunk's patchwork of varying shades of scarlet, while his hair is teased into a bleached bouffant, so absurd Peter Stringfellow might reject it.

lower. It's like watching a limbo dancer descending ever further. What's more, the bad taste comes with such comic timing and verbal invention that you're too busy admiring the wit to find time to tut-tut.

Bruton warns of new IRA violence after bomb find

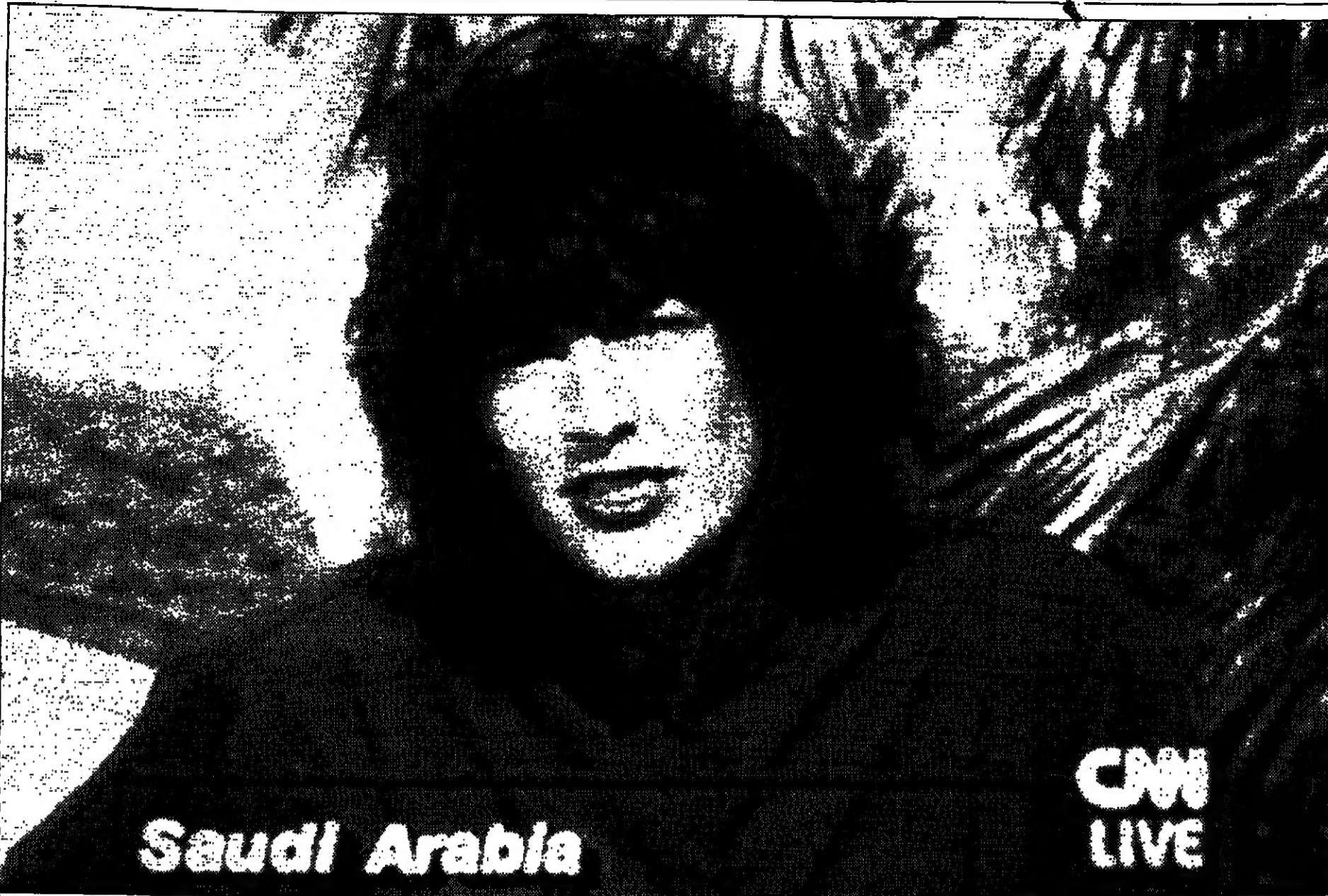
David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA has developed a new type of bomb which was being assembled when police raided a weapons "factory" last week, the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said yesterday.

The new bombs were in production at the remote farm in County Laois for early use. Police yesterday put on display part of the haul, including mortar tubes, mortar bombs primed with explosives, a new type of timer, chemicals and Semtex.

Tory MP Demand for vote sale of married couples. As a state child but no if another

Handwritten note: Jp 1/10/150



Foreign correspondent Christiane Amanpour, who has signed lucrative deals with CNN and CBS. She is renowned for accusing President Clinton, live, of 'flip-flopping' over Bosnia

Frontline reporter makes news with \$2m deal

Andrew Cull
Media Correspondent

CHRISTIANE Amanpour, American television's answer to Kate Adie, became the world's highest-paid foreign correspondent yesterday after an unprecedented bidding war between the United States networks.

The 38-year-old, dubbed the Queen of Bosnia for her coverage of the conflict in former Yugoslavia, has signed a contract estimated to be worth nearly \$2 million (£1.3 million) a year.

Ms Amanpour, born in London and educated at a convent school in Essex, was courted by the four big American networks — and signed a deal with two of them.

CNN 13 years ago, came to prominence during the dramatic changes in central Europe during 1989-90, and through her coverage of the Gulf war from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to the post-ceasefire Kurdish refugee crisis.

Her reputation was sealed in the Balkans when she accused President Bill Clinton during a live link-up of "flip-flopping" over Bosnia.

Ms Amanpour said of the new deal: "I am very flattered that there is so much interest and I was fortunate to have some wonderful choices. But this is the closest to a journalist's dream."

"It would be very difficult for me to leave CNN when it faces new serious competition, because I have been with CNN since almost from the beginning... This lets me have my cake and eat it too."

It is rumoured that she is being paid at least \$1 million (£650,000) by CNN — four times the norm for senior foreign correspondents. Some estimates put the figure nearer \$1.5 million.

Pay-as-you-view: what the media stars earn



Barbara Walters
\$9 million (£6 million)

Highest-paid American anchor. The veteran presenter, aged 64, of ABC's high-rating 20/20 show. Known as "our national interviewer" and "the snoop laureate" in the US press, she was the first to break the \$4 million barrier.



Dan Rather
\$5 million (£3.5 million)

Succeeded Walter Cronkite as host of the CBS evening news, which has fallen behind ABC and NBC bulletins in the ratings. The 64-year-old was in the headlines last year when his co-anchor Connie Chung was dropped after their on-screen chemistry was judged too volatile.



Martin Bell
\$30,000—£100,000

Veteran BBC war reporter has covered conflicts in Bosnia, Vietnam, Beirut and the Gulf. Honoured two years ago by the Royal Television Society for coverage of 11 wars and reports from 80 countries in 30 years. Aged 57, and easily recognisable with his trademark lucky white suit. Has pledged not to return to Bosnia.



Kate Adie
£80,000—£100,000

The BBC's chief news correspondent and best known female reporter. She was awarded the OBE in 1992. Aged 50, she covered the Iranian embassy siege, the Tiananmen Square massacre, the bombing of Tripoli and the Gulf war, and has filed regular dispatches from Bosnia.

CNN will be particularly buoyed up by NBC's failure, because NBC, in alliance with Microsoft, is due to launch a rival 24-hour cable news network — MSNBC — next month.

Tom Johnson, the president of CNN, said: "Christiane Amanpour is the finest international reporter of her generation. I am delighted she is remaining with CNN in an expanded and extraordinarily challenging role."

He added: "Ideally we would have wanted an exclusive contract, but this is quite new and innovative."

Ms Amanpour, who has filed from some of the world's most dangerous trouble-spots including Afghanistan, Algeria, Rwanda and Somalia, said the new arrangement would not mean an end to her work on the frontlines.

Tory MPs gang up on Portillo

Demand for vote on £2bn sale of married quarters

Michael White and David Fairhall

JOHN Major yesterday vigorously defended plans by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to sell off armed forces' married quarters, in the face of objections from 65 Tory backbenchers who have demanded that MPs be allowed a vote on the decision.

Mr Major insisted in the Commons that much of the opposition to the sale of 58,000 houses was based on "misunderstandings." He denied claims that rents would rise sharply. The sell-off will raise

between £1.5 billion and £2 billion.

But last night dissenting MPs warned that they had not been satisfied by Mr Major's assurances. David Evans, Tory MP for Welwyn/Hatfield, a principal signatory of the motion, said: "There is a great body of opinion on the side of the House that will resist it with everything we have got. I believe this will demoralise the forces."

The British Legion and other service support groups also condemned the plan, though ministers insist that the 25-year leaseback by the MoD from property companies, hoping to buy the 800

sites has been misunderstood. Army families put great store by what they call the "regimental patch", a cluster of married quarters in which young wives can find support when their men are away.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, complained that the leaseback formula being pushed through on the cheap and with "indecent haste" to plug the Treasury's need for funds.

Mr Major replied that the scheme had been under consideration for some time and was intended to release resources to "enable equipment to be purchased for the armed services."

He denied that service rents would rise, that families would be moved against their will and stressed that money raised would also be used to

improve the houses concerned.

Army wives were already up in arms over the Portillo sell-off. The MoD's sweetener — a promise to spend £100 million upgrading married quarters — was dismissed by Cherry Milne, chairwoman of the Army Families Federation, as a "quick fix."

Last night Mr Portillo dismissed as "completely wrong" fears that property speculators would buy up many of the surplus properties at knock-down prices. The private sector would manage the properties better than the MoD, he told Channel 4 News.

As a step-parent you are expected to love a child just because it's your partner's child, but no one would have the same expectations if another adult came to share your home.

G2 page 12

Israelis to restart talks with Arafat

Shayam Bhatia in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S foreign minister, David Levy, will be the first representative of Benjamin Netanyahu's government to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, after the new administration announced yesterday that it would resume autonomy negotiations with the Palestinian leadership.

Israeli government officials said the meeting would take place within a few days.

"We intend to 'expand' relations, announced during a visit to Jerusalem by Warren Christopher, gives the US secretary of state one bit of good news to deliver to Mr Arafat and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo today.

But Mr Netanyahu's undertaking is minimal: the Israeli government has declared it will take a tougher line in the negotiations, and the Israeli leader is refraining at present from meeting Mr Arafat.

Mr Netanyahu's advisers have also drawn up a list of what they describe as "Palestinian violations" of the Oslo Accord which set up the framework for the Middle East peace process.

"We intend to resume negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, but the advancement towards peace is contingent on security," Mr Netanyahu said. "We are eager to resume negotiations with all our neighbours, with the government of Syria, the government of Lebanon and with other Arab states, without prior conditions."

Saab Erekat, the Palestinian minister of municipal affairs, expressed disappointment that Mr Christopher had failed to push Israeli leaders further. "If he wants peace, Netanyahu must

respect the choice of the Palestinians and make a telephone call to Mr Arafat."

Ibrahim Kheraishie, the deputy head of the Palestinian office preparing for final-status talks with Israel, said the peace process would resume in earnest only when Mr Netanyahu met Mr Arafat.

"We are giving the Israelis one or two weeks to start talks," he said. "If there is no such development, then we can say there is a crisis."

Mr Christopher said yesterday he expected a Netanyahu government to honour international agreements signed by the previous Labour administration. He was referring to Israel's military pull-back — now overdue — from the West Bank city of Hebron.

The Americans and the Palestinians fear Mr Netanyahu has no intention of handing over Hebron, home to 150,000 Palestinians and 450 Jews.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday: "We are studying the question of Hebron in all its complexity — historical complexity, religious complexity and security complexity of the highest order."

"We adhere to the principle of honouring agreements by all the parties. We are also aware progress towards peace depends on the security issue. Therefore on Hebron we have to move forward cautiously and act meticulously, with great responsibility and without haste."

Ahmed Korei, speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, insisted: "Israel must start by implementing agreements already signed... These issues require a meeting at the highest level — between President Arafat and the Israeli prime minister."

Broadcasters face ira of Likud, page 7

Idea of 'no jury' fraud trials frightening, says Maxwell

Dan Atkinson

KEVIN Maxwell yesterday attacked the Serious Fraud Office director, George Staple, for suggesting that not guilty verdicts returned in cases of alleged financial crime represented a failure of the jury system.

"I find it offensive," said Mr Maxwell, who was cleared after a 131-day trial during which he spent three weeks in the witness box.

Responding to Mr Staple's call for a rethink on use of juries in fraud trials, Mr Maxwell said he found the idea frightening. The "expert assessors" who may replace jurors would be drawn from the "small world" of City lawyers, accountants and others.

safe place for a defendant was in front of a British jury.

Mr Maxwell, who is fighting moves to stage a "double jeopardy" second trial on charges relating to the business empire of his late father, Robert, was expanding on comments made in an article in today's Guardian, written in response to Mr Staple's remarks.

The outgoing SFO chief, speaking on Monday at the London School of Economics, announced a change of heart on the role of the jurors. Hitherto, the director has, since his appointment in 1992, supported the right of fraud defendants to seek jury trials.

Mr Maxwell and his brother Ian were cleared on January 19 of conspiracy to defraud pension funds, as was Larry Trachtenberg.

Kevin Maxwell, page 9; City Notebook, page 11

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4 BRITAIN

Judge deplures sex lies of Wee Frees

Minister cleared in case that has split church, reports Eriend Clouston

THE Free Church of Scotland was plunged into crisis yesterday when a judge accused some of its most senior clergy of exploiting false allegations of sexual misconduct to ruin a doctrinal opponent.

Sheriff John Horsburgh QC, branded four women as liars as he cleared the Reverend Professor Donald Macleod of five charges of indecent assault.

The women, who claimed to have been touched or kissed by the 55-year-old professor of systematic theology, were part of a hostile "nexus" prepared to bend the moral rules

to secure their theological enemy's downfall. "The witnesses... have squared their consciences on the basis that a modest degree of dishonesty would be justified by the perceived resultant advantage of blackening Professor Macleod."

The judge criticised a minority of the members of a committee which three times over six years decided there was no case to answer.

Mr Macleod said later that he bore no ill will towards the women. "They have shot their bolt. They did intend to do me damage far beyond their own understanding of what they were doing."

He was less charitable about the conspirators whose motives were said to have included revenge for his hostile review of a biography of a Welsh evangelical. "My confidence in High Calvinism has been dented. I don't understand how people who hold Christian beliefs can end up as virtual persecutors."

His acquittal brought an end to a 10-year history of persistent innuendo that began with claims that the professor, on the progressive wing of the Free Church, had committed adultery with an unnamed co-religionist in Australia. The judge accepted defence claims that the

women's stories had been used by Protestant zealots with supporters on the Free Church's influential training of the ministry committee after the Australian rumours were found to be unsubstantiated.

The judge did not specifically accuse Mr Macleod of the Australian rumours but he said of the Cambridge-based statistician, referred to as Dr H, who had claimed that Mr Macleod had lifted up her skirt in the course of an assault that lasted at least 90 minutes: "She maybe allowed herself to be used by men for whom she has some regard in

the furtherance of their objectives." The Rev John Murray, who presented the statement of one of the alleged victims to the training of the ministry committee, was "a dangerous man."

Mr Murray, the minister at St Columba's Free Church in Edinburgh, is co-founder of the Banner of Truth publishing house with the Rev Ian Murray, described by Mr Macleod in his evidence as the "archbishop of world Calvinism".

The judge said both had set out to secure "the downfall" of Mr Macleod, whom they considered to be, among other things, soft on Roman Catholicism.

They fellow Free Church conspirators included the Rev Angus Smith, Mr Macleod's brother-in-law, and the Rev Gordon Mair, convenor of the

committee.

The judge likened the rationale of the campaign to the Jesuits' justification of the Inquisition: "It may be a bit messy, but it's a good way of sorting out the heretics."

The four women maintained that they had been separately assaulted by the professor in his car, his house, and his study at the Free Church College in Edinburgh.

Three of the allegations emerged in 1984 "at the 11th hour" when a majority of the

committee had decided there was nothing in other claims. Under cross-examination by Andrew Hardie QC, defence inconsistencies emerged in the women's testimony. M, aged 28, the niece of the Mr Smith, alleged that Mr Macleod had attempted to kiss her on a date when he was actually in the Outer Hebrides.

Others had difficulty explaining why in some cases it had taken years for them to make complaints.

All four were related to, or supporters of, opponents of Mr Macleod. N, aged 38, an Australian illustrator, was revealed to have had her air fare to Scotland paid by a fund established by a workshop in Mr John Murray's previous church. The judge described this as "interference in the process of justice".



Vindicated... Professor Donald Macleod, cleared of charges of indecent assault, pictured at the Free Church College in Edinburgh where he works

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

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Asylum policy setback

Judges rule denial of temporary housing to destitute is illegal

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE credibility of the Government's new asylum policy suffered a further blow yesterday when the Appeal Court ruled that the denial of temporary council housing to destitute asylum seekers was illegal.

The unanimous decision by three Appeal Court judges follows their ruling last Friday that the Government's withdrawal of welfare benefits from most asylum seekers was unlawful and should not be tolerated in a civilised country.

The two rulings yesterday prompted complaints from backbench Conservative MPs that the judges were out of

touch with public opinion, which believed that such people "shouldn't" receive benefits at the expense of the taxpayer.

The judgment yesterday will not lead to the introduction of emergency legislation, unlike the earlier ruling, but it will increase the difficulties the Government faces in pushing its changes through both Houses of Parliament next week.

The ruling by Lords Justices Simon Brown, Neill and Waite, found that four London councils were wrong to exclude destitute asylum seekers from shelter and should have considered them all as "priority vulnerable cases" and offered them temporary accommodation.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "I see no good reason

why someone likely to suffer 'injury or detriment' through a total inability to clothe, feed or shelter himself should be any less entitled to priority housing than someone vulnerable through age or disability."

Jerry Clora, the solicitor representing three of the four asylum seekers who challenged the decisions, said: "What the Court of Appeal has said today is that they are not prepared to see asylum seekers who have fled persecution and torture in their own country having to live rough on the streets of Britain's capital."

The four applicants were Joseph Kihara, from Kenya; Lidya Araya, an Ethiopian; Dragomir Pavlov, from Bulgaria; and Telkeja Ilungilunga, who fled Zaire.

The Government's difficulties arose from the decision to withdraw housing benefit from most asylum seekers on February 8 while local au-

thorities still have a legal duty to give temporary housing to those who are seeking refugee status. It was this legal duty that the Appeal Court upheld yesterday. The Asylum and Immigration Bill will remove that duty when it becomes law.

Nick Hardwick, director of the Refugee Council, which helped the four bring their case, said: "This is another blow to the Government's policy. Any fair-minded person must recognise that the Government's asylum policy has no credibility left. We hope peers and MPs of all parties will call a halt to the plan to throw asylum seekers on the streets."

The Department of the Environment spokesman was surprised at the judges' decision as the courts had not previously held that financial circumstances amounted to sufficient "special reason" to make people eligible for social housing.

MP reopens libel action after vote

Clara Dyer

RUPERT Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, yesterday became the first member of Parliament to take advantage of MPs' new freedom to waive parliamentary privilege in libel cases.

Mr Allason filed High Court papers applying for a stay to be lifted on his action against Joe Haines, political columnist of the defunct tabloid Today, and the paper's former editor, Richard Stott.

The Defamation Bill, which received its third reading on Monday night, will pave the way for Mr Allason and another Tory MP, Neil Hamilton, to reopen actions against newspapers which had been blocked by a 300-year-old rule barring the courts from inquiring into the activities of



Rupert Allason: action against defunct newspaper

that the rule would make it impossible for the newspapers in both cases to mount a defence.

A Lords amendment to the bill, which Labour failed to defeat on Monday, allows MPs to waive the privilege, enshrined in the Bill of Rights 1689, in defamation cases. It will apply where newspapers want to cite parliamentary papers or proceedings in their defence. MPs, even those who have waived the privilege, will still have full protection from libel writs over remarks they make in Parliament.

Ironically, Mr Allason brought his libel action against Mr Haines over an article which accused him of abusing parliamentary privilege. Mr Justice Owen held that it would be unfair to allow the case to go ahead. As an MP, he said, Mr Allason

"must take the ill consequences as well as the good consequences."

Within days Mr Justice May halted an action by Mr Hamilton and the parliamentary lobbyist Ian Greer against the Guardian over allegations of payments for asking parliamentary questions.

The judge said he was "acutely conscious" that the effect might be seen as a pro forma denial of justice to Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer, a denial of a forum to the Guardian to justify its publication and even as a licence to publish material about parliamentary proceedings which, even if untrue, might go uncorrected.

Labour's attempt to scrap the Lords clause was defeated by 61 votes.

Leader comment, page 8

Ministers may suspend Post Office's letters monopoly

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

MINISTERS are planning to suspend the Royal Mail's monopoly on letters and junk mail for the duration of the postal dispute if strikes continue after tomorrow's one day stoppage.

Organisations representing the direct mail companies are also privately pressing ministers to suspend the monopoly permanently after the industrial action is over.

This has left ministers with a dilemma, despite their free-market inclinations. Such a change would require legislation with uncertain prospects, given the Government's majority of one in the Commons. Ministers also face

attack in the Lords on Friday when peers debate a report rejecting the abolition of the postal monopoly on direct mail.

The move highlights a toughening of the Government's desire to see off the strike, which has solid support from the workforce. Yesterday, ministers were determined to press the case after being angered by Labour's disclosure of a U-turn on government policy towards the postal monopoly in the European Union.

The tougher attitude will coincide with a big attack on the Labour Party on the day the postal workers stage their second day's strike. Ministers and Conservative Central Office intend to demand to know where Tony Blair, the

Labour leader, stands on the strike.

Labour this week leaked confidential minutes which revealed a government U-turn over the Post Office monopoly

on "junk mail" deliveries. In a reversal of its previous position, Britain will tomorrow support a new European Union directive to end the direct mail monopoly in 2001.

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Plunging morale causing haemorrhage of doctors that could leave some areas without medical cover, BMA conference is told

GP exodus threatens NHS disaster

Chris Booth
Medical Correspondent

THE health service is facing a haemorrhage of doctors that could leave some areas without medical cover because of plunging morale, the British Medical Association warned yesterday.

The exodus meant GP services in particular were facing a disaster, as younger doctors were not coming forward to replace those who were leaving early.

The BMA's annual meeting in Brighton heard that growing workloads, increased bureaucracy, frustration with the Government's health

changes and less time with patients meant many doctors were leaving the profession.

Joy Edelman, a consultant from Ilford, Essex, said a few years ago it was rare to find doctors retiring before 65, but now it was rare to find them staying over 60.

Sandy Addison, from Larkhall, warned that for many years a growing recruitment crisis in general practice had been ignored by ministers and the Department of Health. "A mounting wave of disaffection is threatening Britain's family doctor service with disaster."

Recruitment to GP training schemes had fallen with more than 50 per cent undersubscribed, whereas in the 1980s there had been queues of

young doctors wanting to become GPs.

"Young doctors don't want to face the prospect of a professional life in a branch of medicine where skills will wither, where credibility as a professional doctor is set to decline and their ability to add columns of figures and understand the jargon of contracting and purchasing is more important than clinical ability."

Jan Banks, a member of the working party set up by the BMA to look into the exodus from the profession said: "Morale among doctors is lower than a snake's navel but the Government is incapable of listening."

"There are insufficient doctors coming in at one end and

doctors retiring early at the other. Not only is there not enough water going in to the bucket, but there's a hole in one end as well."

Dr Banks said in one part of east London there were 140 GP vacancies, but a recruitment drive had failed to find one doctor willing to work in the area.

Although GP numbers overall appeared to be rising this disguised the fact that many were opting for part time work.

Young doctors training to be GPs had dropped from 2,129 in 1989 to 1,540 in 1995. At the other end of the age scale the number of GPs aged 50-55 had stood at 2,065 in 1988 but by 1994 this had dropped to 1,450. Ian Bogle, chairman

of the BMA's GP committee said: "Young doctors don't want to come in to general practice and older doctors are bailing out. We are facing a disaster."

Dr Bogle said if new GPs could not be found, patient lists for the remainder would rise.

The BMA revealed that in the first 10 weeks since April when it started a telephone counselling service for members it had received 800 calls, some from doctors who were suicidal.

Mark Porter, chairman of the steering group overseeing the project, said: "It is a sad fact that workload emerges as the major issue causing stress among doctors working in the NHS."

Private money 'no remedy for cuts in NHS'

REPRESENTATIVES at the BMA conference yesterday voted by an overwhelming majority against a scheme which allows private investors to pay for NHS capital projects like hospital buildings.

They opposed the principle of the private finance initiative (PFI) in health care, which has become a cornerstone of government health policy.

Public capital funding in the NHS has been cut by almost 17 per cent on the

basis of money being attracted from the private sector.

Six PFI projects costing £18 million have been approved.

But many doctors fear the notion of private finance will undermine the NHS and lead to "privatisation by the back door".

The BMA drew back from outright conflict with the Government, saying that where PFI was the only way new hospitals or health centres could be built, it could go ahead provided certain guidelines were followed.

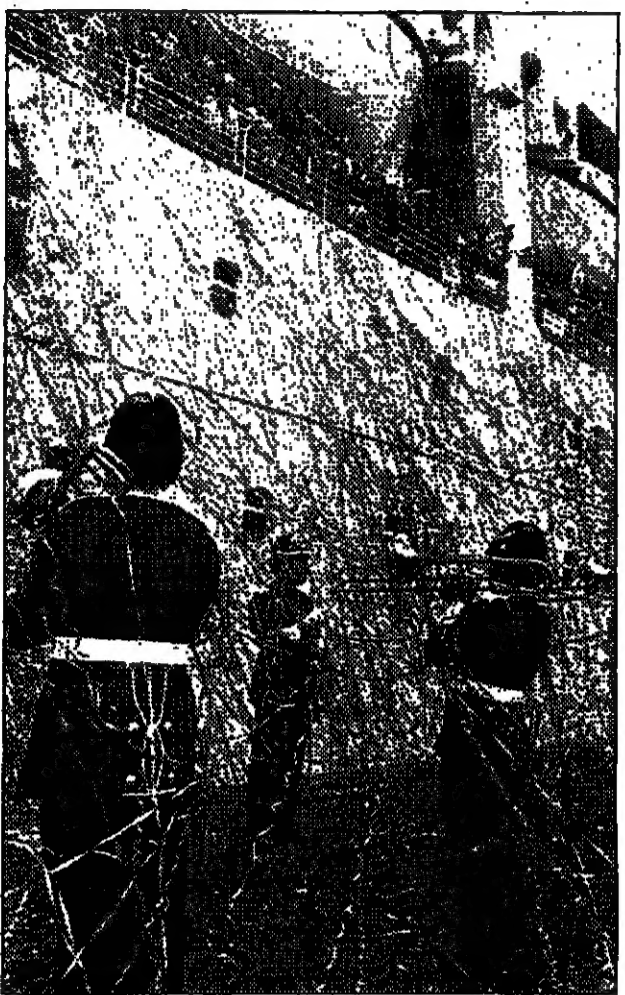
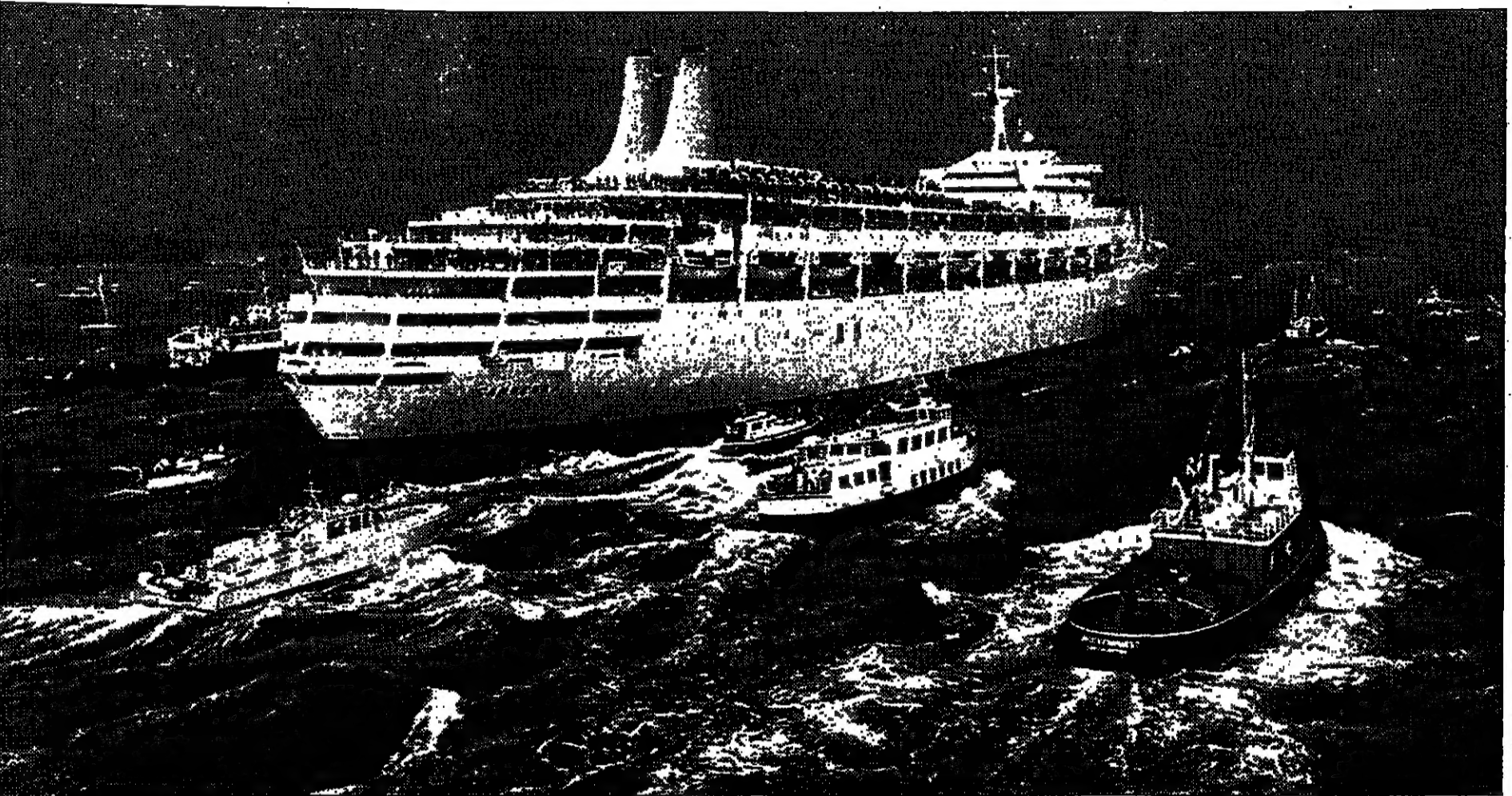
Sandy Macara, BMA chairman, said the association would prefer PFI not to happen but it lived in the

real world and safeguards had to be in place in areas where it was used. He said doctors were being blackmailed into using the system because it was the only way to get new facilities as the Government had cut the money allocated for NHS building projects.

"They are being blackmailed into accepting the private finance initiative for one reason and one reason only. That is that the Government is not prepared to recognise the reality of under-funding in the National Health Service."

He added: "The NHS is the best bet - let's invest in the NHS, not in a commercial organisation which can take a rake off."

Ship's withdrawal marks the end of a distinguished career — during peace and war — of a veteran of world travel



The Canberra returning to Southampton after one of her world cruises (left), and (right) leaving for her first cruise after returning from the Falklands war in 1982, played out by the band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire

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Canberra ready for last trip as grand era of ocean cruising draws to close

John Ezard looks back with nostalgia on a passing age of wood-panelled luxury



THE liner Canberra, last vestige of the grand traditional era of ocean cruising, will disappear from the passenger seas of the world next autumn.

Her owners, P&O Cruises, announced yesterday that the 44,807-tonne ship — with her luxurious mahogany panelling — would end her career on September 30, 1997, after 36 years in service.

The decision sets a seal on voyages totalling more than 3 million miles, during which the vessel carried nearly a million cruise passengers, 6,500 troops and more than 3,000 prisoners of war, serving as a troop ship in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

It also ends an epoch. Canberra was launched in June 1961, not long before new fire regulations, increasing caution and cost-cutting combined to stop

the use of fine hardwoods in cruise design. She was the last ship of her kind to be built. Most previous luxury liners had died with each other in their acreages of tropical woodwork, installed to foster a baronial atmosphere. Canberra, though, came

at a mass market, had wood in her two dining rooms, her saloons, including the famous Cricketers' Bar, her purser's lobby and many of her 787 cabins. "She had virtually every type of wood," one of P&O's staff said last night.

It cost £17 million, had a top speed of 23.5 knots and when launched was the largest post-war British passenger ship.

In 1973 she was nearly withdrawn because of competition from big jets, but the market recovered. However, new pressures and laws ushered in the use of plastics and artificial fabrics typified by the QE2.

Cruise buffs criticised even Canberra as inferior to its predecessors. But such is its mystique that P&O said yesterday it would only be sold on condition it was never again used as a passenger liner. The company did not want it to become a travesty of its old stories.

In her Falklands service, she was fearfully nicknamed "the great white whale" because her size made her vulnerable to bombing. In 1994 she gave Royal

British Legion veterans a touch of opulence when taking them to Normandy for the D-Day commemorations.

Gwyn Hughes, managing director of P&O Cruises, said: "We very much hope the vessel will not be scrapped. Various organisations have approached us about possible uses for the ship. These include her becoming a floating hotel or a visitor centre."

"We are now discussing all these possibilities and hope to make a decision in the next few months."

"Canberra is now an elderly lady and although she remains a much-loved ship, no vessel can continue in service indefinitely." She will be replaced by the 63,500-tonne Star Princess, which will be renamed Arcadia.

Canberra will make her final round-the-world voyage between January and April next year before returning to Britain for her final season of UK-based cruises. Her 20-night farewell cruise will sail from Southampton for the eastern Mediterranean on September 10, 1997.

'Family first' claim in race case over coveted Ford jobs

WHILE workers at Ford's largest British car plant have been allowed to maintain their privileged status and high wages at the expense of black and Asian colleagues, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

White employees at the Dagenham plant in Essex were three times more likely than non-white colleagues to be transferred to coveted jobs as £32,000-a-year lorry drivers, the hearing at Stratford, east London, was told.

Between 40 and 45 per cent of the plant's manual workforce was of ethnic minority origin, but only 2 per cent of those were on the truck fleet. Robin Allen, representing seven black and Asian workers at Dagenham for the

Transport and General Workers' Union, said all were turned down for the truck fleet although one had a heavy goods vehicle licence and two qualified soon after being refused the job.

In 1990, when the seven were refused jobs as lorry drivers, only three out of 29 successful applicants were from ethnic minorities. Some 148 white workers applied and 53 non-whites.

The seven claim that in 1985 the truck recruitment process showed no sign the attitude of Ford's management to ethnic minorities had changed. He argued that Ford's attitude was the consequence of the wishes of the truck fleet, adding: "The truck fleet has allowed recruitment to take place on the basis of family ties."

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6 WORLD NEWS

Major goes quiet on UN leadership

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

THE secretary-general of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, met John Major last night but conspicuously won neither public praise nor a clear British endorsement of his candidacy for a second term...

insisting a new, reforming hand was needed at the helm. Britain was publicly embarrassed and privately angered by the US move, which was widely seen as a politically motivated response to the highlighting of the UN by the Republican presidential contender, Bob Dole...



Charred remains... Omar Isirovic, a Bosnian Muslim, washes his hands in his bathroom in Dubnica, near Tuzla, yesterday after returning to his home, burnt down in 1992

Date for poll in Bosnia agreed

Reuters in Vienna

THE head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said yesterday that Bosnia's first post-war elections would take place on September 14. The OSCE chairman-in-office, the Swiss foreign minister, Flavio Cotti, told the body's Vienna-based permanent council that he was giving the go-ahead for the polls in line with the timetable in the Dayton accord...

More purges by Yeltsin as Lebed gets stronger

David Hearst in Moscow

ALEXANDER LEBED, a two-star general who was a minor player on the Russian political stage until 10 days ago, received sweeping powers yesterday to make top military appointments and turn the security council of which he is secretary into a mini-politburo...

defence, Pavel Grachev. President Boris Yeltsin also announced that the security council of which Mr Lebed is secretary will have greater powers and a permanent staff of 183 advisers. Mr Yeltsin said he had also decided to adopt some elements of Mr Lebed's programme on state security, Chechnya and the fight against crime...

Last week Mr Lebed secured the dismissal of the three most powerful men behind Mr Yeltsin, his chief bodyguard General Alexander Korzhakov, General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the federal security service and Oleg Soskovets, the deputy prime minister. Mr Yeltsin continued the purge yesterday with a clear-out of another seven generals, five of whom had been invited to tea with Gen Grachev last Tuesday after he resigned as defence minister...

Warnings of the decline of the beret come as France digests news of a falling consumption in baguettes - down from 500 grams a day in 1945 to 160 grams today. The quintessentially French baguette and the French brunoise cigarettes are also losing out. The Seita tobacco company recently launched its own American-blend Gauloises and Gitanes to counter an estimated loss in the brunoise market of 1.5 billion cigarettes a year.

paper, Argumenti i Fakti, said he was determined to form a new team likely to be more popular with voters. "New people are arriving who are both authoritative as far as the people are concerned and professional, like Alexander Lebed," he said. "There will be more resignations to come and new specialists will arrive. The team will be serious, strong, and will last for a long time." But he appeared to close the door on a comeback by Anatoli Chubais, the former privatisation chief who earlier this year lost his position as deputy vice-premier and now works as a low level election adviser to the president.

Meanwhile the communist leader Gennady Zyuganov denied that his campaign was running out of steam, and declared three times at a press conference that he was preparing for victory in the second round on July 3. Asked what he would like for his 52nd birthday today, he replied: "If they could just stop talking like about me for one day on television." Arctic Russia's biggest city, Murmansk, has asked Norway for a loan of more than £300,000 to cover back pay for teachers, doctors and other state employees. The Norwegian foreign ministry said it would consider the request.

French mourn decline of the beret

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH institutions like baguettes and Gauloises may be in decline, but few bemoaned the passing of military service. Until this week, that is, when it became clear that France's beret industry is reeling at the loss of 150,000 conscripts a year. Maurice Beighan, whose 38 staff have been making berets in the Basque country since 1928, said military orders accounted for up to 40 per cent of his company's £1.6 million turnover. "In these bare-headed

days, I can't see how civilian orders can make up for the loss of our most important client," he said. "This is the worst thing that has happened to our business, encouraged people to take their hats off." The country's three manufacturers of standard-issue blue, green and red berets claim they will be the first casualties of President Jacques Chirac's decision last month to switch to a professional army. Beighan Berets and their rivals, Béatex and Blanc-Ojibet, are key employers in the Béarn region where the hat was invented by shepherds 800 years ago.

Béatex exported 600,000 military berets. There is still a market out there," he said. Warnings of the decline of the beret come as France digests news of a falling consumption in baguettes - down from 500 grams a day in 1945 to 160 grams today. The quintessentially French baguette and the French brunoise cigarettes are also losing out. The Seita tobacco company recently launched its own American-blend Gauloises and Gitanes to counter an estimated loss in the brunoise market of 1.5 billion cigarettes a year.

between 15 and 40 years in jail for corruption yesterday and ordered them to pay up to \$30 million (283 million) in fines and repayments of stolen money. - Reuters. Crime ring bust Turkish prosecutors in Istanbul were questioning 11 people yesterday after police smashed a crime ring involving army and police officers, a court official said. - Reuters. Yiddish finale The world's last daily Yiddish newspaper, Unzer Wort (Our Word), which was published in Paris, will fold at the end of this month, victim of rising costs which killed several bigger French dailies in past years, the staff said yesterday. - Reuters.

Daggers out in Pasok election

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE'S ruling Pasok party has plunged into crisis on the eve of a congress to elect a successor to the former prime minister, Andreas Papandreu, who will be buried in the sound of canons and gunfire in the capital today. With early elections looking ever more likely, thousands yesterday flocked to Athens' cathedral to pay their respects to the veteran politician, as old rifts among the Socialists opened over the succession. The death of Mr Papandreu early last week at the age of 77, and his apparent refusal to leave a political will, has set the stage for a showdown between Papandreu loyalists - led by the interior minister, Akis Tsochopoulos - and the man who took over as prime minister, Costas Simitis. The scene of battle is the four-day party congress due to open tomorrow. Mr Simitis, a 60-year-old pro-European reformer who openly challenged Mr Papandreu's rule, has made it clear he wants the post. Aides say that, unless the prime minister wins, he will not have the support to implement his modernising programme. "It is vital that he wins the post because it not only controls the party machine but will give him the mandate to form a government when elections are next held," one

adviser said. "Without it, it is unlikely that Pasok will stay united." Since assuming power, Mr Simitis has won plaudits from the international community where his pro-Western, moderate stance has been seen as a welcome departure from his predecessor's populist rhetoric and anti-European harangues. But his efforts to improve Greece's image abroad have not been so popular at home. Increasingly, he has come under attack from Papandreu traditionalists, loyal to his influential widow, Dimitra Liani. Mr Tsochopoulos, who has wide appeal within the party, has often denounced Mr Simitis for his lack of "social conscience" in enacting painful reforms to bring Greece - the European Union's poorest member state - in line with its partners. The prime minister has also been repeatedly criticised by socialists for his soft-line approach to Greek-Turkish relations at a time of considerable friction between the two NATO rivals. The prospect of Mr Simitis winning the post narrowly - or not at all - has fuelled speculation that the prime minister will be forced to call a snap election to assert his authority over the party.

World news in brief

Dudayev's wife seeks asylum

THE widow of the killed Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev is likely to seek asylum in Finland, a Finnish newspaper said yesterday. According to the daily Il-talehti, a family friend said Alla Dudayeva is in hiding in another country. She fled Moscow this month with her son, aged 13. Ms Dudayeva's late husband, as president of Chechnya, was the leader of the republic's drive to secede from Russia. He died in April, with rebels saying he was killed in a Russian air strike. - AP.

China attacks Dalai Lama

China yesterday denounced the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled god-king, as a puppet of international forces opposed to Beijing and said he would never succeed in his goal of independence. Meanwhile, a Pentagon official, Walter Sioacome, undersecretary of defence, arrived for the first high-level US military contact with China since its confrontation with Taiwan in March soured relations. - Agencies.

No secret love

The United States has tightened up the rules of romantic engagement between its diplomats in Moscow and Russia, telling them they have to report liaisons immediately. - Reuters.

Last camp shut

Malaysia closed the last of its camps for Vietnamese boat people yesterday, but UN officials noted that it was merely the first of many countries in the region to do so. - Reuters.

£83m fines

A Kuwaiti court sentenced three former oil executives to

Advertisement for the Daihatsu Fourtrak SUV. It features a large image of the vehicle and a dense, repeating pattern of the words 'DISCOVERY SHOW', 'FRONTIER', 'TROOPER', 'SHOGUN', 'VITARA', 'RANGER', 'PANTHER', 'TERA', 'GALAXY', 'SANTANA', 'MIRAGE', 'LIVINA', 'SERVO', 'MIRAGE', 'LIVINA', 'SERVO', 'MIRAGE', 'LIVINA', 'SERVO'. Text includes: 'The Daihatsu Fourtrak. Rated Top 4x4 in the BBC Top Gear 1995. Customer Satisfaction Survey.' and 'The Daihatsu Fourtrak range starts at £14,195 on the road. For more information, please 0900 521700 or visit the Daihatsu Information Service, FREEPOST 505, Southwick, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 9BR.' At the bottom, it says 'THE DAIHATSU FOURTRAK' and 'NO NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN'.

Partial view of another advertisement on the right edge of the page, including the text 'US fur', 'Britain', 'nuclear', 'in brief', 'African', 'intervene', and 'Virtual universi'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

US fury at Britain's nuclear plan

Martin Walker in Washington

BRITAIN was accused of "unbelievable perfidy" and "getting its hands dirty" for its arms control experts yesterday, as the US delegation voted against the British plan for a compromise at the Geneva talks on a comprehensive fast-track treaty.

The American delegates, official and independent, were furious at what British officials insist was a genuine last-ditch attempt to secure a comprehensive test ban treaty before Friday's deadline for the nuclear pact.

British sources denied yesterday that they were at loggerheads with the Clinton administration and the state department, but are nervous that if the treaty founders, Britain is being cast as the scapegoat.

The US in Geneva voted against a compromise that had been backed by Britain, Russia and Pakistan. The suspense is now mounting for the three days that remain before the United Nations deadline if the treaty is to be agreed and endorsed at a general assembly this year, a date which would also allow President Clinton to claim a diplomatic success in the weeks before his election day.

"The negotiations are at a critical stage. We are working closely with our allies," a state department spokesman said.

The CTB treaty has always been a dual instrument; a way to prevent proliferation to new nuclear powers and an arms control device to stop the five admitted nuclear powers from testing their weapons.

The British have concentrated on producing a deal that the non-admitted nuclear powers of India, Pakistan and Israel can all support. The US negotiators are stressing the need for a strong verification and inspection regime.

Over the weekend, Britain stunned the US negotiators by supporting a Chinese proposal for nuclear-weapon-free zones, arguing that this was a price worth paying to get India, Pakistan and Israel to sign and ratify the treaty. But when India announced that it would not sign, the heart of the British policy collapsed, even as the Americans were denouncing "British perfidy".

"Britain's actions, in direct defiance of its supposed closest ally, go way beyond the particulars of the treaty negotiations. This is payback time for what the Clinton administration did over Northern Ireland, and payback for the US taking Britain's nuclear options off the table. This is bad news," Michael Capron of the Stimson Centre, one of the leading arms control think-tanks, said.

"Britain is the world's leading purveyor of plutonium, and it is a fantastic exercise in hypocrisy for Britain to plead that it is trying to stop proliferation," Chris Payne, of the National Resources Defence Council, another of the non-governmental organisations, said.

Negotiators are still hoping to hammer out a compromise, based on new proposals from the Dutch chairman, Jaap Ramaker. One proposal would put monitoring stations in 37 countries, including the three non-declared nuclear powers, and another would bring the treaty into effect automatically once it is ratified by 75 countries.

Broadcasters face ire of Likud

A media sell-off threatens journalists who failed to endorse Netanyahu's campaign, writes Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem

IN WHAT many Israelis see as a thinly veiled attempt to settle scores, Benjamin Netanyahu's new government is threatening the state-owned broadcasting company with privatisation.

The Israeli Broadcasting Authority has been accused of leftwing bias by ministers after journalists failed to endorse Mr Netanyahu during May's election campaign.

Mr Netanyahu himself has held back from criticising television and radio for supporting the former Labour government of Shimon Peres. But his minister of communications, Limor Livnat, says the political prejudice of the IBA is "scandalous".

"They did everything to help Shimon Peres win the elections," Mr Livnat said in a recent interview. "It's not fair that taxpayers should support such an important media organisation that fails to meet the standards of objectivity."

The immediate consequence of privatising the IBA would be the loss of hundreds of journalists' jobs. The government's argument is that the organisation is overstuffed and overdue for streamlining. Privatisation, it argues, leads to competition and improved quality.

Israel's right wing has

weakened support for Mr Peres and his Labour government and benefited Mr Netanyahu. The attacks appeared to have undermined Israel's confidence in their government's peace deals with the Palestinians.

"The Abu Wardeh interview was a cheap and low gimmick," Israel's widely respected commentator Nahum Barnea said. "Also it was an insult to the intelligence of the Israelis."

Mr Barnea, who lost his son in a suicide attack in Jerusalem last March, claims Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority staged the interview in an attempt to influence Israeli voters.

On the eve of independence day, Mr Netanyahu telephoned Amnon Nadav, the head of national radio, KOL Yisrael (the Voice of Israel), to complain that he

was not receiving fair coverage. Mr Netanyahu was particularly angry at the decision to air an interview with him late at night, long past prime time. Radio sources claim that Mr Netanyahu's peace deals with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu shouted, "I will deal with you when I am prime minister" as he slammed down the phone.

Israeli journalists admit the media have traditionally been associated with the liberal left. A week before the election, Jerusalem's respected weekly, Kol Ha'ir (All the City), published a front-page picture of the murdered prime minister Yitzhak Rabin under the headline "Remember and Vote".

Even moderate Israelis concede this was a clear example of bias, conveying the message that Mr Rabin's assassination was caused by the incitement of the right. Despite the story, Mr Netanyahu won 70 per cent of the vote in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu's threat to sell the IBA has sent waves of panic through the broadcasting establishment. However, reporting seems unaffected: for the past two weeks radio and television have concentrated on political divisions within Mr Netanyahu's Likud party.

Israel's right wing has long accused the media of following dictates of the left wing

Netanyahu shouted, "I will deal with you when I am prime minister" as he slammed down the phone.

News in brief

East African leaders ready to intervene in Burundi

A SUMMIT of East African leaders pressurised Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government yesterday into agreeing to some form of foreign intervention — possibly military — to halt civil war, writes Chris McGreal in Johannesburg.

The summit was called after Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian president and an international mediator in the crisis, said talks had reached an impasse over the Burundi government's refusal to cede power to the Hutu majority and to negotiate with increasingly effective rebel groups.

Amnesty International estimates that more than 1,000 people are dying each month in widening Hutu rebel raids or massacres by the mainly Tutsi army. The summit of five presidents from the region agreed that a commission will explore the scope for intervention. The Tanzanian president, Benjamin Mkapa, said it will be aimed at bringing an immediate halt to violence.

Burundi's Tutsi prime minister, Antoine Nduwayo, has consistently refused either to permit foreign troops on his country's soil, except for Organisation of African Unity observers, or to talk to the rebels. But his remarks after the summit indicated that military intervention, favoured by neighbouring Tanzania, is not ruled out.

The Dutch government spoke at a yesterday against a possible European Union compromise with Iran which may accept the status against the British writer Salman Rushdie.

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In an interview with the Amsterdam newspaper Het Parool, Mr Rushdie said a compromise would be "counterproductive" and immoral.

"If the EU is thinking of such a deal I would recommend that they think again," he said. "I can see that Europe is very bored with the issue and is desperate to get it off the agenda." — AP.

Freud family flees Morocco for France

THREE relatives of the late Moroccan interior minister, Mohammed Oufkir, reached France yesterday after fleeing Morocco.

King Hassan had forbidden them to leave ever since Oufkir died in a coup attempt in 1972 in which Moroccan air force planes tried to shoot down the king's aircraft.

Oufkir's daughter, Maria, aged 34, arrived at Orly airport three, and an aunt.

French radio stations said the group was smuggled out of Morocco a week ago by a French businessman on a boat that sailed to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, east of Tangier on the North African coast. They were then flown by helicopter to the Spanish mainland.

Oufkir, a power behind Hassan's throne for many years, was officially said to have committed suicide after the failed coup in which air force planes attacked the king's aircraft as it returned from abroad.

Hassan's political foes and foreign media said Oufkir was shot by firing squad without trial along with half a dozen other generals.

Members of Oufkir's family were detained without trial until 1981 when they were released after a campaign by human rights groups. — Reuters.

Dutch oppose deal with Iran over Rushdie

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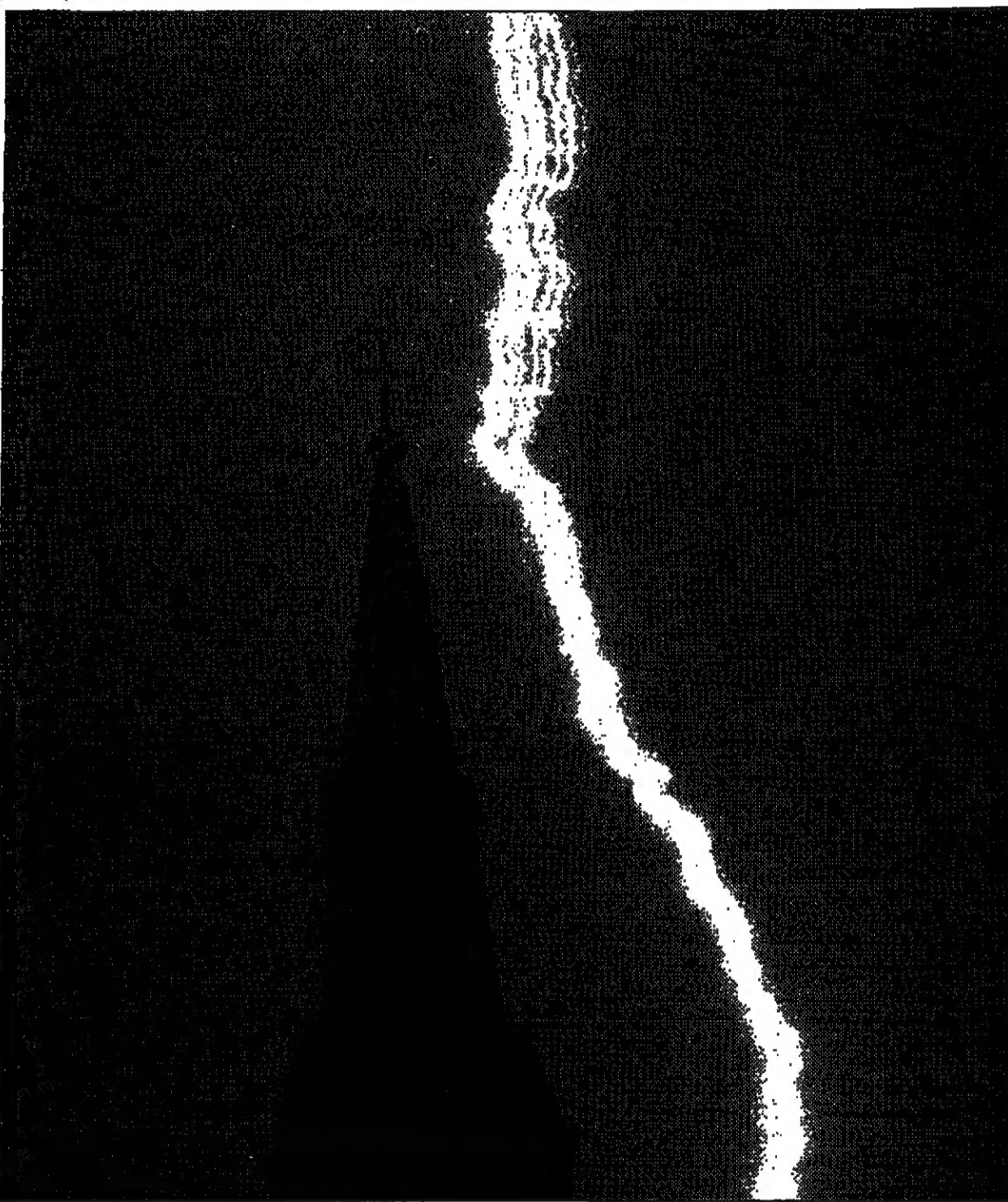
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Heavens open... Lightning streaks across the sky above the steeple of a church in St. Joseph, Missouri. The storm brought damaging winds and flooding to much of the Midwest this week. PHOTOGRAPH: TIM SCHOON

New Zealand awaits poll chaos

Giles Wilson in Wellington

A FEW yards from the New Zealand parliament is an earthquake fault line which may one day give the country's politicians a very nasty turn. For the moment, however, they have their hands full coping with a shake-up of a different kind, delivered not by nature but by the New Zealand public.

The general election to be held in October, will be the first since a referendum cast aside the Westminster-style first-past-the-post system in favour of proportional representation.

While the ruling National Party has a healthy lead in the polls and will probably do well enough to have won under the old system, it will now have to find one or more coalition partners to stay in power.

The picture is further complicated by the rise of the rightwing nationalist party New Zealand First, led by the charismatic Maori, Winston Peters. Shown by polls to be the country's most preferred candidate for prime minister, Mr Peters has won support from the disaffected and the elderly by opposing foreign investment and immigration, particularly from Asia.

High on personality but low on published policy — he speaks for his party on eight separate portfolios — Mr Peters is unpredictable. But PR has meant he could decide the result of the election.

The Mixed Member Proportional system (MMP) that New Zealand has adopted is based on the electoral set-up

in Germany, and gives parties the right to nominate whom they want to sit in parliament. Maori activists, union leaders and party insiders seem destined for seats.

So too does the country's most famous radio talkshow host, Pam Cokerly, who has given up her job to fight the election for the Alliance party. A well-known left-winger who fought last year to become mayor of Auckland, she says she decided to run after years listening to tales of hardship from callers to her show.

"I could carry on broadcasting for the rest of my life, and it might not amount to as much as signing just one piece of legislation to keep a kindergarten going," she said.

Some of the biggest problems posed by MMP are for the Labour Party, rumouring a poor third in polls behind the National Party and New Zealand First. While it would happily lead a coalition, it is more likely on current form to end up as a minority partner.

There is no doubt Labour would have serious problems allowing itself to be led by Winston Peters as prime minister. Its other main option would be to enter a coalition with its old Tory foe, the National Party — a scenario that has not been universally dismissed.

Bryan Gould, now vice-chancellor of Waikato University, believes things will be tricky for Labour. "Labour will find it extremely difficult to be a junior partner in a coalition, as it still carries the baggage of being the major

opposition party," he said. "It would be a humiliation, because it would suggest that Labour no longer has that claim on voters' allegiances."

The party has not recovered from being kicked out of office in 1990, after its right-wing reforms improved the economy but largely dismantled the welfare state. When the National Party took over, voters found they got more of the same.

Mr Gould added: "New Zealand is such a small system with no checks and balances — it's unicameral, with no

written constitution — so when the two major parties agreed on an extreme programme of reform, I think that's when people said they were going to have to do something about it."

If stability was what voters were after when they chose PR, they may well be disappointed. With three-year fixed-term parliaments and several parties jostling for position, the country could be in for perpetual campaigning. It is conceivable that voters may come to regret adopting PR altogether.

Women lose in Algeria's war

The punishment for un-Islamic females is the same as that for males: death. John-Thor Dahlburg reports from Algiers

FOR puritanism, ferocity, method and mayhem, none of Africa's present conflicts match the civil war in Algeria. This may be the only conflict in history where the combatants are in a special risk category because they make women more attractive to men.

Teachers risk their lives teaching "un-Islamic" subjects such as music or French. Midwives, female doctors who treat male patients (and male doctors who treat women), girls and young women who attend school or wear skirts or try to have careers may pay with their lives.

As many as 50,000 people may have died in the civil war since January 1992, when the army-dominated government cancelled elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was on its way to winning.

Many Algerians are sceptical that the hands of their government, which preaches tolerance and openness, are much cleaner than those of its Islamic fundamentalist enemy. Kelloum Larbes, a nurse whose reporter husband was killed two years ago, suspects that his death, and many other violent acts blamed on the Islamists, are the work of police hit squads.

"Everyone talks of fundamentalist terrorism," she said. "But who talks of state terrorism?"

Indeed, a study by the French defence ministry's delegation for strategic affairs concludes: "The strategy of counter-guerrilla warfare utilised by the armed forces is the fairly simple technique of terrorising the population."

The army and other areas of the establishment — known here as "the power" — have dominated Algeria since independence from France in 1962.

"Algeria has been governed by the same group for 34 years," the former French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has written. "Whether it is military officers or civilians who are at the top, in reality it is the same clan, born of the National Liberation Front (FLN) and moulded by the authoritarian Marxist doctrine of the fight for independence."

The roots of the civil war go back more than a decade, to

when Algeria's Islamic movement emerged as the preferred vehicle for discontent with the one-party state and its inability to deal with problems such as rising unemployment and a young, fast-growing population.

Islamic firebrands promoted ideals of brotherhood, justice, Muslim morality in public life and jobs and housing for all: a fresh wind in a stagnating society.

In 1990, the first multi-party elections since independence were held. The FIS won 4.3 million votes to the FLN's 2.2 million in the contest for local councils and took command of almost all the big towns.

Proclaiming its municipalities "Islamic communes", the FIS began to implement its vision of a Muslim society. Women were banned from public places such as cultural centres and beaches; buses were segregated by gender. In schools, sport and technical education for women were abolished.

The armed Islamic group GIA warned women that unless they appeared veiled in

Two students were killed by motorbike gunmen as they stood, unveiled, waiting for a bus

public they would be considered military targets. Two students, aged 17 and 18, were killed by gunmen on a motorbike as they stood, unveiled, waiting for a bus.

But modesty wasn't all the insurgents demanded. Rebels began forcing girls and young women to "marry" them temporarily, a privilege they claim as *mohajedin*, or Islamic holy warriors.

Roussa may mean abduction, and worse. In the Blida region, the bodies of two sisters, aged 15 and 21, were found at the side of a road. They had reportedly been gang-raped and decapitated after apparently refusing to consent to such a "marriage".

Despite claims that the menace is gradually abating, it is still a brave Algerian who smokes, reads French-language newspapers, goes to the hairdresser or Turkish bath, listens to the radio or music, drinks alcohol, goes to the cinema, wears shorts, performs military service, has a friend in the police, or even sings. All, at one time or another, have been branded *un-Islamic*. — *Los Angeles Times*.

France is cutting financial aid to Algeria by half to Fr3 billion (\$387 million), *Le Monde* said yesterday.

'Virtual university' to open doors

STUDENTS in the United States could be studying for degrees at a "virtual university" next year after a group of state governors pledged to establish the first such educational institution on the Internet, writes Ian King in New York.

The new university will allow people to study for a

degree from their own homes or workplaces, downloading assignments and lectures from the Internet and submitting their work by e-mail.

"This is not a replacement for the existing system of higher education," said Utah's governor, Michael Leavitt. "It's a way of creating new choices and opportunities."

A Special Announcement

An Autumn visit to the Rose Red City of Petra and a relaxing few days on the Red Sea - 7 nights from £395

Starting in September, we shall be inaugurating a direct, non-stop flight series with Royal Jordanian Airlines from London Gatwick to Amman which enables us to combine a visit to the rose red city of Petra with a relaxing stay in Agaba on the Red Sea. To mark the occasion we are making available a limited number of places at a special tariff from £395 per person in a twin.

Our visit to the Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan includes three nights in Petra at the Jordan Guest House (situated close to the entrance to Petra), three nights in Agaba at the Alcazar Hotel and one night in Amman at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Ever since the Swiss explorer Burckhardt rediscovered Petra by chance in 1812, romantic travellers have made their way to Petra, the unique city of the Nabataeans, Romans and Crusaders. This land has excited the imagination of the British since the days of Lawrence of Arabia and even before that when Victorian travellers would take many weeks to reach the site of Petra. Our journey is the perfect opportunity for those who

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Half-day Wadi Rum with lunch £39
Half-day Jerash £29 - Little Petra £16

Flight Supplements
First Class £200 - Club Class £100

Price includes: return flights, 7 nights accommodation in a twin and breakfast, transfers and transportation, local representative guides, National Authority insurance, entrance fees to Petra, visa, airport taxes, tipping. Please note that the sequential order of the stops may change.

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Irrelevant and unpopular

Major's education reforms ignore urgent needs

GILLIAN Shephard could not have been clearer or more succinct: her party is politically exposed; Labour has a huge lead in the opinion polls on education policies; improving standards is far more crucial than the structure of the secondary system; and yet the Government remains obsessed with the mechanics of delivering education.

Perhaps someone should be blunter with the Prime Minister. In the first interview she has granted, his sister this week revealed he had blocked out many memories of his own grammar school days. Well John, in your day grammar schools were extremely unfair. They branched three out of four pupils who failed to gain a place as "failures" and spent almost twice as much per pupil as secondary moderns.

university but some East Asian states now send 75 per cent of school-leavers into higher education. How are we going to compete?

The main indictment of yesterday's proposals is their irrelevance. They are not, as the Prime Minister urged, going to produce a new grammar school in every town or vastly increase selection in schools. There is no money for a vast swathe of new schools. Opted-out schools will be able to select up to 50 per cent of their pupils by ability but, as only 41 out of 1,034 grant-maintained schools have opted to select even 10 per cent of their intake (the current ceiling), fears that giving them the right will mean they will exercise it seem unfounded.

There is a popular myth on the continent that all Englishmen are gay. How would the tabloid press and England supporters react to a German newspaper pasting Gazza's head on a photograph of a man in a bra, stockings and suspenders on the front page, with the headline, 'Come and get it boys (in Germany)'?

A hard case that makes bad law

Changes to the Defamation Bill must be reviewed in the Lords

THE GOVERNMENT'S Defamation Bill is a generally sensitive attempt to impose practical rules upon the difficult relationship between the media and those who allege they have been defamed by them. Some of its clumsier proposals have been constructively amended by peers and MPs as the bill has made its way through Parliament.

As the respondent in a case brought by Neil Hamilton MP which is potentially affected by it, this newspaper must admit to a special interest in the new clause, which was introduced by Lord Hoffmann in the Lords on May 7 and approved by a majority of 264-201 votes in the Commons on Monday night.

oppressive action on account of things which they did or (in particular) said as parliamentarians. Parliamentary privilege is no longer politically controversial in the sense that it was. But it remains an important constitutional principle, providing a continuing bulwark for the independence of the Houses of Parliament.

To legislate on such matters in the way that Parliament is now doing goes against all these wise principles. The Hoffmann clause was produced at a late stage of the bill's proceedings in the Lords. It was endorsed this week in highly confusing procedural circumstances. It is not part of a more general review and is arguably motivated by a particular set of partisan concerns.

Football as it should be played

Tonight's game offers an escape from a tabloid agenda

TONIGHT England and Germany meet at Wembley for a football match but also, for good or ill, a contest of national pride. There is nothing wrong with that. Bonding and shared national experiences are the prized expressions of nationhood.

remove the scourge of racism that used to infect so many terraces.

This cleansing spirit has helped to uplift the atmosphere at Wembley where the organisers have so far sublimated the passions of the fans into singing songs amid regular screen reminders to respect the opponents. There have, inevitably, been incidents off the field but, so far, the European Championship has been a celebration of football among an extended, and recently enlarged, European family.



Letters to the Editor

Sorry Mr Lilley, the answer is no

Don't be beastly to the Germans

THERE is not a "bogus" argument left which has not been employed by this malicious government in its dealing with asylum-seekers.

THE tabloids non is not confined to reporting of football. There is no pretence of balance in much of what is written on matters of national importance concerning the EU on financial, political or policy matters.

ON Sunday I attended a gathering of the Protz clan. We are descended from Johann Vincenz Protz, who came to England from the Black Forest in 1856 and settled in east London to work as a cabinet maker.

he gave our bowler the charge and promptly lost his off stump. He took no further part in the match (which we won by 5 wickets).

PERHAPS the organisers of Euro 86 could withdraw from those newspapers responsible for the xenophobic nonsense of recent days the facilities normally given to the press. I am sure that the affected journalists would be happy to accept public tickets offered to them by the German FA.

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Price is right

YOUR article (Adland) smokescreen, June 24) perpetuates myth concerning the 1992 election campaign that "tobacco companies donated (advertising) sites free to the Conservative Party".

More Bush war

I AM impelled to write to express my deep concern at the rumours of the threatened closure of the BBC's World Service drama department.

Jennings comes up trumps

I WAS intrigued by Smallweed's theory (Outlook, June 22) that there might have been some villainy involving Venables's entry into Jennings and Darbishire's poetry handwriting competition.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Glossy strawberries in white plastic punnets and bunches of pink tempt passers-by to the roadside stall overlooking the tidal river. Polythene tunnel ends are fully open on this hot afternoon revealing scarlet flowers on runner beans, clove-centred pink and leafy strawberry plants, picked in late April and May.

It's the cricket test: a matter of which football team an editor supports

AS A British citizen resident in Germany for five years, and quite used to German incomprehension as to British concerns on the future of the European Union, it is increasingly clear to me that German opinion links the mindless stupidity of the British tabloids, or football hooligans, and British opposition to European federalism in one package.

Brain scanner

IT'S THE CRICKET TEST: A MATTER OF WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM AN EDITOR SUPPORTS

More Bush war

YOUR correspondent BE Oakley (Letters, June 24) is wrong in asserting that Relate "requests a fee" from the people who ask for our services.

Jennings comes up trumps

Why is it that when any cuts are to be made, drama is instantly targeted? Radio plays are unique and they are relatively cheap to make.

A Country Diary

den as, back home in Boetheric, his crop was almost finished. He visited Glasgow and learnt how to make whitewood punnets for packing the fragile fruit and, within a few years, Tamar strawberries were established in selling for 2s 6d per lb compared with 6d a pound locally.

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JP 11/1/50

Diary

Matthew Norman

ONLY hours before the balloon goes up, the Column That Supports Our Boys has obtained a document of potentially unimaginable import. The Vogts Diaries, which were discovered only yesterday in the dungeon at a spooky Bavarian castle, purport to be the secret thoughts of morose German coach Bertie Vogts in recent weeks. Early entries — written in a slender Gothic hand — show signs of paranoia ("June 9: Zey keeps saying zat I — alone of all German coaches — have you nussink. Schveini Schveini!"; however, a note of calm later appears. "June 22: Ze leads done well first half, ven ze Croats come at us early doors." The final entry, dated yesterday, betrays a confidence bordering on arrogance. "Ze only team zat vorries me is ze French. Who believe zey have an excellent defense. I reads. "Mind you, zey thought that in 1940. Ha ha. No, just my little joke!" Naturally, questions marks are raised (why, for example, does Vogts write as though applying to be a scriptwriter on Allo Allo?). However, Daily Mail editor Paul Dacre, a leading expert on everything, is categorical. "There can be no possible doubt about their authenticity," said the former Paul Trevor-Roper yesterday.

A T the Daily Mirror, meanwhile, the venerable editor Piers "Gordon" Morgan is in disgrace (with hindsight, he must accept that the planned mustard-gas attack on Hamburg was a step too far). How lucky, at such a time, to have the eminent intelligence of his deputy London Editor close at hand. Just before Germany's quarter final on Sunday, Mr Parsons was on the back bench: "Find out how many Serbs there are in the Croatian team," he screamed, "and if the Croats ever pass to them."

B UT enough of football. Elsewhere, sane and rational Paul Johnson's number-one oracular ranking is threatened. The challenger is Martin Amis, the first of whose series of Wimbledon articles appeared in the London Evening Standard on Monday. Mr Amis singled out three Americans as potential champions — Michael Chang (lost on Monday in four sets), Jim Courier (lost on Monday in four sets) and Andre Agassi (lost on Monday in four sets). Tin hats aloft!

R IGH T then, back to the football. I am shocked to learn that David Irving, the historian who will sue if described as a Hitler apologist, has gone Awol. "I can tell you now, he won't be watching Wednesday's match," said a nice woman at his Mayfair flat, adding that he has fled to Florida. "He hates the football, and I don't know who he'd prefer to win, I'm afraid." On his return, Mr Irving will immediately be interned on the Isle of Man.

B UT why on earth become obsessed with football, when we have the chance to celebrate a new Policy Statement on long-term environmental concerns and cuttings from Westminster? The document is 571 pages long, and is printed on non-recycled paper.

F INALLY, then, we return to the football, and to an inspirational spirit at its inimitable best. In Biggles Defies The Swastika, squadron leader James Bigglesworth has infiltrated the Gestapo in Norway. However, while in the air, a certain Schaffer tries to blow him ("if there is one thing a man cannot do," writes Captain Johns, sagely, "it is fly an aeroplane and fight at the same time"). Pandemonium ensues until, with immense élan, Biggles persuades Schaffer to postpone the fight, and prepares to land on the sea despite a burst of anti-aircraft fire. "You English bring your nerve with you," Schaffer conceded. "No use leaving it at home," returned Biggles lightly. "Well said, sir. No use leaving it in the dressing room, either. Gentlemen, your country expects."



Continuing scandal of the food we eat

Commentary
Catherine Bennett

YOU cannot play games with people's health. Jacques Santer warned Britain last week. Most of Europe seems to agree with him. Half of Germany will not eat beef from anywhere; French farmers are still rampaging about, in protest at a drastic fall in domestic beef consumption. And here? In Britain, we are meant to have stronger stomachs. Those of us who actually share the German fear leave in March and never return. It has been rewritten, rejected, dismissed as a moment of hysteria. John Major has just described as "nonsense" a convincing Panorama exposé of a decade of Maff's dilatoriness, gulle and bombast. Maff refused to answer for its actions on that programme, yet it happily followed in the press, or from the opposition. On the contrary, Tony Blair was reported at the weekend cracking "woof woof" jokes about beef-eating. In Britain, it appears, Maff will happily play games with people's health, and — better still — neither the people nor their representatives will protest. Only the farmers are to be pitied. If Maff hoped that British people about food would finally triumph over fear, its plans have been well justified.

Overall, beef consumption is back at around 85 per cent of the level before the BSE announcement. Put calves in lorries, and angry cat-lovers will show at every port; put potentially infected meat in pies, and the public will shudder for a while, then start eating pies again. No incensed matrons will wave banners outside Maff's headquarters, or hurl themselves against the car bearing Stephen "no conceivable risk" Dorrell to the Department of Health. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the British beef scare, is how quickly it has become unscary. Although the Government variously rated the media for spreading

hysteria, it was a matter of weeks before fearful headlines gave way to pitiful announcements about the cattle cull. "It's Mass Moo-der," and then, inexorably, to attacks on foreigners: "Germans Sabotage our Export for Beef!" This campaign could hardly have been conducted if the British public had cared deeply about the dangers, real or imagined, of BSE. But public confidence, at first said to be so comprehensively dashed, was rapidly restored. At Sainsbury's sales fell significantly. "Then," says a spokeswoman, "we had a four-day, half-price sale, and most of our stores sold out. Since then, they've been generally creeping back up." Surveys may suggest a widespread lack of confidence, but shopping habits reveal blank indifference.

"With some notable exceptions, British consumers are more concerned about price than quality," says Francis Blake of the Soil Association. "Whereas the French and Germans and other European countries are more concerned about quality." But he still professes surprise that the public's appetite could be so quickly restored. "After a scare lasting three months, it's still not having the dramatic impact that it has elsewhere."

It is possible because British indifference to food quality is usually attributed to rationing, then to a post-war food policy which put quantity and cheapness before all other considerations, but the decline in taste probably started far earlier. "English domestic cooking has never stood in high repute," wrote JC Drummond in The Englishman's Food, a book which records centuries of food adulteration. "Its reputation appears to have declined during the 19th century, probably because when we acquired from the Continent the knowledge to grow garden vegetables we did not trouble to learn how to learn to cook them properly. It is one of the major tragedies of English domestic life."

Today, that domestic tragedy has its wider consequences, including hideous conditions for farm animals and poultry, and a generation of food retailers who compete on price before everything else. "Loyalty cards", rather than food quality, are now the favoured marketing tool of rival supermarkets

quences of the UK's love affair with cheap food can be seen all around us. In items like bland, tasteless chickens, bland Golden Delicious apples, watery tomatoes and heads of such staggering uniformity of character that they are hardly worth eating. Not to mention crippled turkeys and battery eggs which now contain more salmonella than they did in the days of Edwina.

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Save radio from the scythe of Birt

Beatrix Campbell

SAY "wireless" and your enemies and your juniors will know you're a Radio 4 freak. They'll know that you're a person of a certain age, a certain respectability, a certain sort of citizenship. You are what you are, of course, but Radio 4 listeners are — or were — believed to be emblematically English, folks whose listening habits went with gardening, sport, reading, evening classes and holidays as composites of the national character.

But it isn't the same template of xenophobic Englishness once sponsored by Mary Whitehouse and her National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, or even footie nationalism. Its audience is more heterogeneous than that — it may read Gay Times as well as the Radio Times, wear permanent pleats or 50/5s, go to evening classes, Texas Line Dancing and the opera. It likes Indian food and it worries about the world. Some Radio 4 freaks even watch Blind Date and their children have sighted Topless Darts.

We will be hearing more from the listeners' lobbies as radio faces further British reforms. Who knows how their members vote? But still, they're conservative. The great revolts which have recently shaken programme planners have been about the defence of schedules and services, programmes or presenters. They claim to have dispatched a couple of "foreigners" imported into Radio 4 and Radio 3 — Gerry Anderson (from Northern Ireland) and Paul Gambaccini (from across the Atlantic).

But the current movements among listeners do not resonate with the xenophobia that made Mary Whitehouse a household name and England fans a riotous assembly. One of the most vigorous movements was the 1991 campaign to save the name and scheduling of Woman's Hour. When the BBC proposed changes there was outrage. And when the early-morning farming programme was abolished in Scotland there was a formidable campaign orchestrated by Scotland's Rural Forum and the National Farmers Union and supported not only by farmers and landowners but also by country people and even city-dwellers for whom the programme carried a kind of high-tech ecology of everyday life. Open University professor

Stuart Hall reckons that Radio 4 is a relic of a Thatcherian spirit. "It was in radio that the constitutive elements of broadcasting were put together. It is associated with standards in a way that television isn't." David Edgar is a devoted listener. His remarkable play Pentecost went on Radio 3 on Sunday. He sees — or hears — Radio 4 as being rather like a "visitor to your house and we require of it a certain politeness. What you want is rules, routine, familiarity and a cycle you can recognise."

"Television viewers surf channels. Radio listeners expect a daily season and style. They tune in and stay put. Radio audiences acquire audiences who then have their expectations violated," says David Gauntlett, of the Institute of Communications Studies at Leeds University. Jocelyn Hay, the spokesperson for the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, insists "we are not elitist"; that the campaign is defending "constructive, thoughtful, crafted programmes. We are not the moral guardians of broadcasting. But we are very concerned about the future of radio", particularly the proposed merging of radio and television production.

High-quality programming is their brief, not they say, taste and decency. The distinction is crucial. Whitehouse attached herself to broadcasting both to attack it and to concentrate her campaign against the drift of Britain and its "high" and "low" cultures. Hay, by contrast, is defending top-gear radio as an expression of England. Her group is part of a loose coalition that is also defending radio and the structure of the BBC from the scythe of Birtism — from the World Service to public ownership of the transmitters and the vigour of public-service broadcasting.

IRONICALLY, it is the BBC and its director-general who are provoking new politics of listenership, extending to the Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council. "We're worried that as commercial activity becomes more significant the BBC will run down the public activities," says the Consumers' Association. This coalition is not satisfied with the regulation of the BBC by the great and the good. Nor is it content with "complaints" as the only codification of listeners' wishes, constituting listeners as a kind of high-tech national-heritage movement. This coalition wants to bring together the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Complaints Commission into a bigger, better body with a research function and an organic connection to its constituency — the listeners. Liberated from the constraints of complaint, listeners might appear in all their diversity — less like the National Trust, more like the nation.

Our existing written constitution works perfectly well, argues John Redwood: what we need is less government, fewer quangos and more power to the people

The crowning glory

IT IS fashionable to decry Britain and the British constitution. Indeed, the public sport of knocking it all has led to a new consensus: that Britain does not have a written constitution. It is this apparent lack which the left and New Labour have seized upon, arguing that if we only had a written constitution like Germany we would be a freer, happier and more prosperous people. It has become the vogue to demand Bills of Rights, to seek to encode civil liberties, to incorporate whole European and international treaties into a new settlement. This would all be combined with new regional assemblies or parliaments, a further transfer of powers to Brussels and Frankfurt, the establishment of more quangos and the passage of more laws.

The truth about Britain, her liberties and her constitution is more complex. The British constitution has evolved over many centuries. The struggles and arguments have been recorded in many documents, which have become part of our written constitution. Magna Carta, the Statute of Appeals, the Act of Settlement, the Act of Union, the Great Reform Act, local government legislation, the European Communities Act: these and many more are constitutional Acts. They deal with the problems of their day: curbing the power of the monarch, breaking from Rome, uniting the kingdoms, extending the franchise, devolving power to localities and reaching agreement with the continent. There are many words spread over many sheets of vellum and paper.

Critics forget that many fundamental freedoms what now would be called liberties — were first fashioned here on British soil. Habeas corpus, the right to trial by jury, and the separation of powers, splitting legislation from judiciary, were pioneered in Britain. Englishmen were proud of their freedoms. Honest administration allied to strong local and municipal government also developed early. In recent years individuals have come to enjoy the right to challenge public administration through an

Ombudsman's enquiry. This grafts a continental approach to sorting out problems with bureaucracy on to our system of redress through MPs answerable to their constituents. If anything a free press, an important cornerstone of those same liberties, has become freer and more intrusive in the daily lives of those in power in recent years. So how is it, with so much written down, and with an ever vigilant press and Parliament, that the Opposition can feel that there is something wrong with our settled constitution?

It is not just a case of the Opposition's failure to win a majority in the House of Commons, although that is part of the reason why they are unhappy with the system. There has also been an erosion of our liberties in the post-war period. Since the outbreak of the second world war there has been a continuous growth in the size and reach of government itself. Many of us who never thought we would be criminals now find we can be taken into custody for a period. Since the outbreak of the second world war there has been a continuous growth in the size and reach of government itself. Many of us who never thought we would be criminals now find we can be taken into custody for a period. Since the outbreak of the second world war there has been a continuous growth in the size and reach of government itself. Many of us who never thought we would be criminals now find we can be taken into custody for a period.

WE need to reduce the stranglehold of centralisation. I welcome new powers for school governors, to control and run their schools. I want the health reforms to succeed, where they give to each surgery, and hospital, authority over their own affairs. The sale of council houses gave tenants power. The sale of nationalised industries to their employees gave power to the lorry drivers of the National Freight and the miners of Tower Colliery. More needs to be done to give the users of our free health and education services real choice.

The biggest disappointment in recent years has been the attitude of local government. Councils spend over one quarter of total public spending, that's one tenth of total

national income. They can do a lot of good — or harm — with that much money. Of course once a year at Budget time you would expect an argument about how much money should be granted from the centre and how much should be raised locally, but not the same debate over the whole year.

THE reluctance to lead is everywhere visible in Labour and Liberal local government. Recently some of my constituents that the film Kide should be banned from screens in our area. Local government has been given the power to decide. I sent the problem to them and asked them to use their discretion. I did not say whether the film should be banned or not, as it is their duty and not mine. I wanted them either to say clearly that they wanted no more censorship, or to say they would watch the film and see if it was unacceptable. Instead the County Council met and decided to hand the powers back to the Districts. They were too afraid to express a view.

The new agenda of regional assemblies and parliaments, far from helping to govern Britain better, would exacerbate these trends. Local government would be marginalised more. Decisions currently taken locally would be taken or influenced regionally. Individuals and families would face a further erosion of their liberties, as yet more law, regulation and public spending was unleashed.

Labour's answer to most things is a new quango: everything from regional development to food safety. Putting these new monsters under a regional parliament would not suddenly solve the problems of quango accountability. It would be no easier for a regional assembly to control them than it has proved for Parliament or local government.

Britain's settlement is written down and it does defend many liberties. Rather than a new Bill of Rights, we need a self-denying ordinance from national politicians, not to carry on spending and legislating away our freedoms.

countants, bankers, lawyers and actuaries gave evidence. Much criticism was levelled at professionals in general and questions raised about their knowledge and responsibility for the conduct complained of — how independent could an "expert assessor" from the same small community of professionals be?

Mr Staple appears to be more concerned to add to the already frightening imbalance of power between the prosecution and the defence. Not satisfied with his draconian Section 2 powers which compel defendants in serious-fraud cases to answer questions without protection against self-incrimination under penalty of imprisonment; the

clearly demonstrated their attention and grasp of detail. Ultimately the jury were invited by Lord Justice Phillips in his summing-up to determine the question of my honesty. As the judge said, he doubted whether any jury had had a better opportunity to determine that question, having heard evidence from me over 21 days. I would rather rely on the independent judgment of 12 individuals than professional assessors who would inevitably be involved in conflicts of interest. In the Maxwell trial, professionals including

George Staple, head of the Serious Fraud Office, this week questioned the jury's role in fraud cases. Kevin Maxwell disagrees

I find the jury not guilty

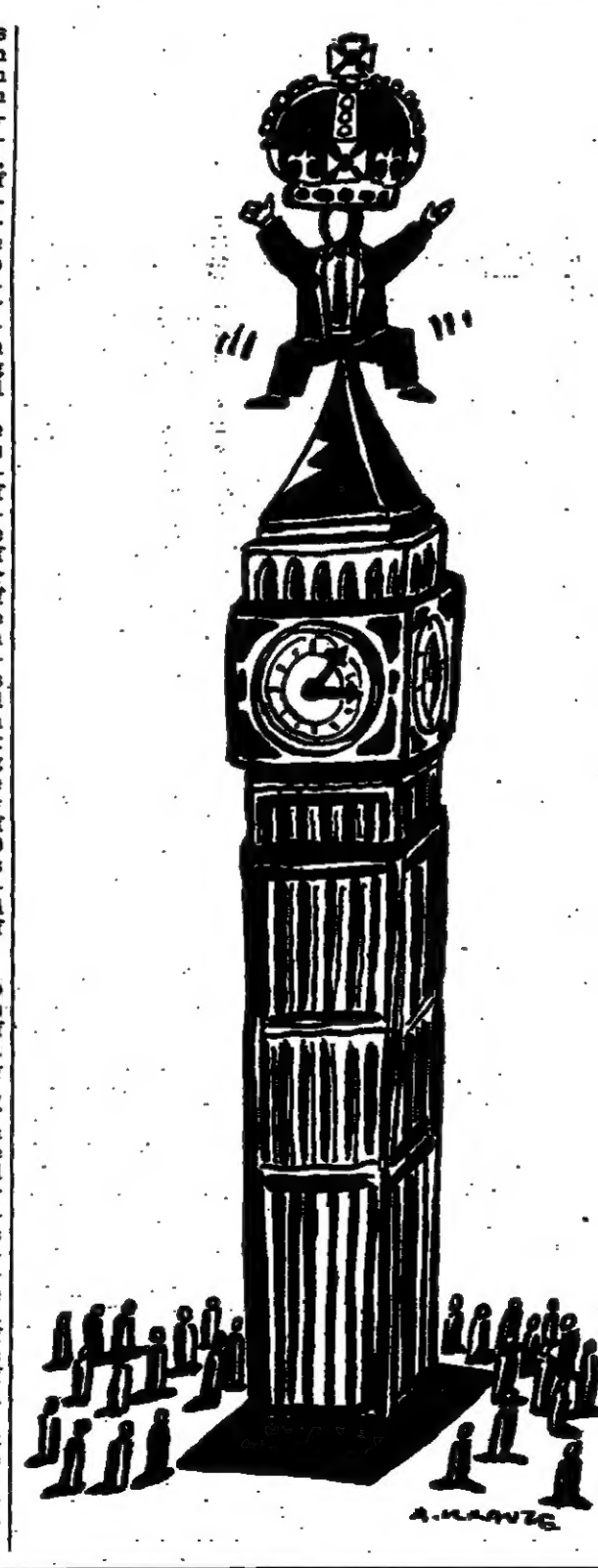
George Staple, head of the Serious Fraud Office, this week questioned the jury's role in fraud cases. Kevin Maxwell disagrees

GEORGE Staple's call for a review of the role of the jury in serious and complex fraud cases is a case for grave concern for all those interested in the preservation of the common law and justice. His questioning of a jury and their ability to deliver a reliable verdict is a clear indication of his bias. It sug-

gests that the only acceptable verdict to Mr Staple in his capacity as a prosecutor is one of guilty. He ignores the experience of the recent Maxwell trial which lasted 131 court days. Anyone sitting in court throughout can testify to the jury's attentiveness. They raised over 75 questions — many dealing with issues of complexity. These

countants, bankers, lawyers and actuaries gave evidence. Much criticism was levelled at professionals in general and questions raised about their knowledge and responsibility for the conduct complained of — how independent could an "expert assessor" from the same small community of professionals be?

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URGENT!

600 grants need to escape from poverty and disease

There are thousands of elderly people around the world, like Sada pictured here, who need help. But in the last month alone we have heard of 600 who are in desperate need.

Many of these people are frail and destitute. Some are in urgent need of medical attention. We must have no families they can turn to for help. And if we don't find 600 sponsors for them — some sums of these grants could die.

For just over £25 a week, you can save a life. By sponsoring an elderly person in need, you can provide him or her with the basic essentials of life, such as food, clothing and medicine.

What's more, your sponsorship will also support vital projects which will improve life for entire communities. Most of all, just knowing that someone cares can make a world of difference to an elderly person in need. To find out more, clip the coupon now and post to:

Mrs. Helen Elger, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1JY. The form includes fields for name, address, postcode, and telephone number, and a section for sponsorship details.

Pasqualino de Santis

An eye for great images

PASQUALINO de Santis, one of Italy's greatest post-war cinematographers, was particularly associated with the work of Francesco Rosi and it was while on location in Ukraine for this director's latest film, based on Primo Levi's *The Truce*, that he died of a heart attack, aged 69.

In the exciting times of the Italian film renaissance after the second world war, De Santis followed the example of his elder brother, Giuseppe, and entered the Centro Sperimentale film school. On graduating in 1948, he got his first job in the crew of his director brother's third feature, *Non c'è pace tra gli Uffizi* (There's No Peace under the Olive Tree, 1949). In this first practical experience on a film set he learned from Giuseppe that conventional rules of cinematography could be overturned, for example by filming in long takes.

An assistant cameraman during the 1950s, his creative career really took off when he worked for cinematographer Gianni Di Venanzo on Francesco Rosi's *Salvatore Giuliano* (1962). I first met Pasqualino the following year when he was working again with Di Venanzo and Rosi on *Le mani sulla città* (Hands Over The City). While Di Venanzo struggled to light a dramatic scene in the shadowy back alleys of Naples, I explained and listened to Rosi explaining to Pasqualino how he wanted the camera to film the "real life" of the scene and capture the reactions of ordinary people acting a story close to their lives. "It was a lesson in life as well as in the making," Pasqualino told me.

In 1965 I saw him at work with Rosi again, this time in Spain, where Rosi was making *Il momento della verità* (The Moment of Truth), about a young peasant who wants to



De Santis... Oscar winner

become a toreador. It was Rosi's first colour film and, with Di Venanzo, he scouted locations and filmed several bullfighting events, including Pamplona. But Di Venanzo, a maestro of black and white, felt uneasy about colour and soon quit. Rosi turned to Pasqualino.

"I was reckless of me to think that I could succeed where Gianni had had doubts but I believed we could shoot in colour as if it were black and white," he said later. Indeed, I watched him using hand-held cameras adroitly, almost like a TV cameraman of today, whether mixing with the guests at a real "dolce vita" Madrid cocktail party, where the American movie star (Linda Christian) seduces the handsome young bullfighter, or in a real Plaza de Toros, just over the border from Gibraltar, where Rosi's cameraman filmed the excited faces of the aficionados. These lessons served Pas-

qualino well when he came to direct the lighting for Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, which was shot under more traditional conditions. Not surprisingly, the film's most acclaimed sequences — for which De Santis won an Academy Award for best cinematography in 1968 — were the duels scenes, which he had persuaded Zeffirelli to let him shoot with hand-held cameras. The Steadicam had yet to make its appearance.

With Rosi's 1967 *C'era una Voite* (Cinderella Italian Style), he got his first solo credit and became cinematographer on the Neapolitan director's subsequent films, among them *The Mattei Affair*, *Lucky Luciano*, *Illustrious Corpses*, *Christ Stopped at Eboli* and *Carmen*. For *The Truce*, which was being shot under difficult conditions in Ukraine, Pasqualino and Rosi had found locations that would enable them to shoot all the countries and seasons of Primo Levi's odyssey of Italian prisoners returning home from Auschwitz.

De Santis also worked for other directors. He shot four of Visconti's last five films, including *Death in Venice*, for which he won a Best Award. He also invented the drama bleached look for the *Roma* suburbs of Ettore Scola's *A Special Day*. For TV he shot

Montaldo's *Marco Polo* in 1980, filmed mostly in China and in Africa. He also photographed three films by Robert Bresson: *Lancelot du Lac* (1974), *Le Diable probablement* (1977) and *L'Argent* (1977).

Numerous Italian and international awards and critical plaudits have recognised Pasqualino de Santis's creative contribution but film historians will remember him most for two of the most stunning opening sequences in cinema's last quarter of a century: two arrivals by boat, that of Dirk Bogarde's Achenbach across the lagoon in *Death in Venice*, and that of Gian Maria Volonté's doctor, who substitutes for Marquez's narrator in *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*.

John Francis Lane
Pasqualino de Santis, cinematographer, born April 24, 1927; died June 23, 1996

Pud Brown

Hot sax in the Big Easy

OVER the past 30 years Pud Brown, the jazz clarinetist and saxophonist who has died aged 79, cultivated the appearance and manner of the absent-minded professor. With his flowing white locks, spectacles and penchant for collecting electrical apparatus (usually broken, generally domestic), he fitted the part perfectly, characteristically deflecting attention from his considerable talents as a jazz musician in the more traditional styles.

During a season with Trevor Richards' Camellia Jazz Band from New Orleans at the Holiday Inn, Singapore, in 1985, Brown amassed a sizeable quantity of non-functional electric toasters, and his appearances at the Ascona Festival in Switzerland in the late 1980s were emblemized by a white bicycle, its basket so laden down with odds and ends that Brown scooted rather than pedalled from place to place.

Albert "Pud" Brown was born into a musical family in Wilmington, Delaware, and toured theatres and carnivals with the family band before seeking a musical career in Chicago in his late teens. There he befriended and worked with many of the pioneers of Chicago-style Dixieland jazz, including Bud Freeman and Jimmy Dorsey, as well as the cornettist Pete Dolly, who, like Brown was to make a name playing Dixieland on the West Coast.

Brown arrived in California in the late 1940s via Shreveport, Louisiana, where he got to know many of the New Orleans jazz musicians still touring the South. He spent 20 years on the West



Traditional style... Pud Brown at this year's New Orleans jazz festival

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID REEFERN

Coast, becoming famous as one of the hottest soloists on clarinet and tenor, playing the older style of jazz, and recording with New Orleans veterans Nappy Lamare, Kid Ory and Lee Collins.

The first session cut under his own name was made in 1951, and it is a mark of the respect that Brown commanded from his fellow musicians that his sidemen included Jack Teagarden on trombone, Bob Crosby's drummer Ray Bauduc, and Benny Goodman's pianist Jess Stacy.

That he survive of his live sessions with Lee Collins from San Francisco's Club Hangover reveal Brown as even more impressive in a studio, and he holds his own well against the explosive in the late 1970s, having made another fine album under his own name with Dick Cary and Shelly Manne.

Brown moved back to the South, initially to Shreveport, but gradually spending more time in New Orleans. As the first generation of jazz musicians died out, there was an increasing quantity of work available for a hot clarinetist in the traditional style, and Pud's elderly but sprightly appearance helped.

He spent several months between 1980 and 1983 in the New Orleans production of the musical *One Mo' Time*, worked on Bourbon Street with trumpeter Connie Jones and a bizarre band called the Razzberries Ragtime that featured two banjos, as well

as the cornet of Wes Mix and the trombone of Paul Crawford.

At festival time, Brown was always hyperactive, leading his own Delta Kings — his elderly sister occasionally edged Stanley Stephens off the drum stool — and playing

in many of the other bands that appear all over New Orleans during that season. He came to Europe with Louis Nelson in 1988, and was completely convincing as an authentic member of Nelson's Preservation Hall-inspired band.

Pud Brown was amusing company off the bandstand, always on the lookout for more gadgets, but the achievement for which he will be remembered was to blend the hot jazz influences of Chicago with the gentler older style of New Orleans

and to make a successful living out of it for more than 60 years.

Alyn Shipton
Pud Brown, jazz musician, born January 22, 1917; died May 27, 1996

Baldev Singh Chahal

Tackling the law head on

BALDEV Singh Chahal, who has died aged 69, successfully campaigned in the mid-1970s to get legal exemption for Sikhs who wear turbans, from wearing crash helmets. But his lifelong ambition was the creation of a Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

Born in the Punjab in India, Chahal came to Britain in 1964. He initially worked as a postman in Maidenhead and a High Wycombe telephone operator, and supervisor.

In 1973 legislation was passed requiring motorcyclists to wear crash helmets. This resulted in Chahal organising a meeting of 300

representatives of all the Sikh institutions in Britain from which sprung the South-based Turban Action Committee.

Chahal fought the law as a battle against religious and racial prejudice rather than a safety issue, citing the Sikh commandment that "anyone forcing a Sikh to wear a hat

is as if he were married a week before he was born."

In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing 10 pounds. I hope this is satisfactory.

My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago and I haven't had any relief since.

You have changed my little girl to a boy. Will this make a difference?

I have no children as yet as my husband is a truck driver and works day and night.

In accordance with your instructions I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

I need my money quick. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve, I will have to send for another.

Examples of unclear writing online at Rainbow Confusion: <http://www2.islandnet.com/~coalker>

could have changed the law in just three years.

Chahal became increasingly involved in Sikh politics and in 1983 became general secretary of the Council of Khalistan, arguing, "Without home rule your religion can't survive, and without religion you are nothing."

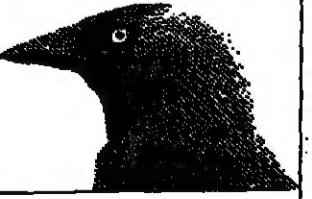
He is survived by his wife, Balvinder, and a daughter and son.

Prabjot Dolly Dhillon
Baldev Singh Chahal, campaigner, born February 6, 1937; died June 6, 1996

the law, riding around police cars until he was arrested. Yet relations with the police remained amicable — both parties considered they were carrying out their duty. Over three years Chahal received 42 fines. He refused to pay and was eventually sentenced to 30 days in prison.

In 1976 the battle was won when the legislation was amended with the Motorcycle Helmets (Religious Exemption) Act. Chahal believed in the British justice system, his daughter Shelley observed, and didn't think there was any other country where he

Jackdaw



Synonym check

WE HAVE often made light of the bizarre suggestions that spellcheckers can make when we run our priceless prose past their beady eyes. Yet, it hadn't occurred to us until now that spellcheckers also promote the ideology of capitalist-imperialist-chauvinist oppression.

Microsoft Word for Windows '95 comes in many different languages and El País, the leading Madrid daily, recently noted that the synonym dictionary included in the Spanish version leaves a lot to be desired.

If you ask for synonyms for the word *hombre* (man), the

paper says, the suggestions include *ser humano* (human being) and *persona* (person), but try *mujer* (woman) instead, and you will not get either of these, although it will offer *senorita* (miss), *Venus* and *Eva* (Eve) as possible replacements.

Feminists would probably also fail to cheer at the program's idea of synonyms for *esclaviana*: Microsoft Word suggests *perfidia* or *vicio*.

No more politically correct when it comes to geography, the dictionary when asked for synonyms for *occidental* (Westerner) provides *europaeo*, *ario* (Aryan), *blanco* (white), *civilizado* and *culto* (learned). Try *oriental* instead, and all you get is *asiatico*, *amarillo* (yellow) and *chino*.

Multi-lingual bad manners, from the New Scientist.

Holy see

THE SPELLCHECK on the Tablet's new computer system has a particularly topical and irrelevant sense of humor. Recent suggestions for spelling changes would have produced Sir Patrick May-

Late cheque

I AM forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I had seven, but one died which was baptised on half a sheet of paper.

Mrs Jones has not had any clothes for a year and has been visited regularly by the clergy.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband, who is missing, is dead.

Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't tell me who he is.

I am very much annoyed to find you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty

Over blurb

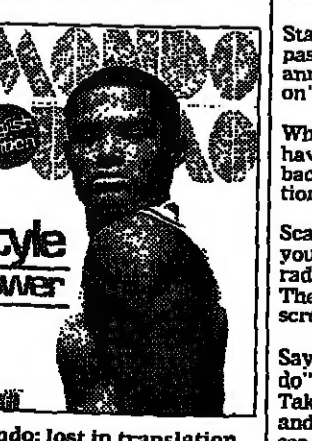
INTERSEASONAL clothes, both transgenerational, both transgenerational, represent at this point an industrial and

ful co-existence and absolute consistency.

Mondo Uomo magazine introduces its fashion section. A perfect example of art blending with fashion?

Bored?

THINGS to do in an elevator Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering "Shit up, d'mmit, all of you just shut UP!"



Mondo: lost in translation

Dr Alexander Langsdorf

Haunted by the Bomb

AALEXANDER Langsdorf, who has died aged 83, was one of the Manhattan Project scientists who built the atom bomb and then pleaded with the White House not to drop it on Japan. President Truman refused and Langsdorf was haunted by the subsequent devastation for the rest of his life.

Langsdorf was among that group of scientists, led by Charles Franck and Leo Szilard, who wanted Hiroshima and Nagasaki spared. Instead they urged a demonstration of the Bomb's terrifying destructive power. This, they believed, would induce a rapid Japanese capitulation.

Although Langsdorf worked mainly at Chicago he was involved in final programme design, convinced that the purpose of the programme was to beat the Germans to nuclear weapons. When, in the spring of 1945, it became evident that the feared Nazi nuclear programme did not exist, Langsdorf was horrified by the military decision to switch targets and use the weapons on Japan.

Throughout his life he remained convinced that the costs of shortening the war had been unnecessarily and sickeningly high. His family recall that in the 1970s, when in Japan for a year as a visiting professor at Tohoku University, Langsdorf broke down with grief when, with his wife, he travels took him to the Hiroshima memorial.

However, his deep concern about the horror and international problems posed by nuclear weapons was given public expression much earlier. Shortly after the end of the second world war, with other Chicago scientists, he helped to create the famous Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a publication of great international impact whose masthead clock — warning the world of nuclear holocaust — stood at a minute to midnight during the darkest phases of the cold war.

Bombarding uranium targets in a small cyclotron which he built with colleagues at the University of Washington, in St Louis, in the late 1930s, Langsdorf was among the first physicists to produce milligram quantities of the radioactive element 93 (neptunium) which decays into element 94 — plutonium. Although extremely small, Langsdorf's samples were nevertheless large enough to confirm, as had been spelled out 30 years earlier in Frederick Soddy's laws of radiochemistry, that neptunium-

239 decays by electron emission into plutonium-239. The finding at the University of California at Berkeley that like uranium-235, the plutonium-239 isotope is highly fissionable, drew Langsdorf into the Manhattan Project.

His work with the cyclotron was started well before the warning by Franck and Peierls that nuclear weapons were a practical proposition. Similar academic and exploratory research was being carried out in Britain, Germany and the Soviet Union. But only Langsdorf's results produced samples large enough for a preliminary investigation of the fissionable properties of plutonium-239.

It was inevitable that he would be drawn into the huge nuclear weapons programme during the war. After operating the Washington cyclotron as a plutonium-refining device and, from Washington, assisting in the design of the first controlled atomic chain-reaction piles at Chicago University, he joined Fermi at Chicago where he remained until his retirement in 1977.

DURING the war his cross-sections aided Eugene Wigner in the design of the large weapons-grade plutonium-producing reactors, built rapidly on the Hanford site, Washington, and later in the design of weapons. But like Wigner and Szilard, Langsdorf was one of the first scientists to realise that controlling nuclear chain reaction is a simple matter when compared with understanding and controlling the psychology of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Langsdorf, who took his doctorate in the 1930s at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before coming to Washington and Chicago, was among the first staff scientists at Chicago University's National Argonne Laboratory. Set up just after the war, this became one of the foremost research centres in the world, working openly on nuclear and fusion research and, for three decades, investigating civil nuclear safety.

Langsdorf, who leaves a wife and two children, is remembered by his colleagues as a razor-sharp physicist, a man dedicated to world peace, and a great gardener.

Anthony Tucker
Alexander Langsdorf, physicist, born May 30, 1912; died May 24, 1996

Birthdays

Claudio Abbado, conductor, 63; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National Building Society, 74; Sir Alan Bailey, safety investigator for royal palaces, 65; Prof Kenneth Barker, vice-chancellor and chief executive, De Montfort University, 62; June Bridgeman, former deputy chair, Equal Opportunities Commission, 64; Hugues Cuened, French tenor, 94; Georgie Fame, rock singer and songwriter, 58; Dr Alexander Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, 67; Willie Hamilton, republican, former Labour MP, 79; Lady Holland-Martin, former chairman, NSPCC, 82; Donald Johnston, secretary-general OECD, 80; Prof Ruth Kempton, linguist, 52; Sylvia Lawrence, handseamer, 72; Laurie Lee, poet and author, 82; Robert Macleannan, Liberal Democrat MP, 60; Gordon McQueen, former Scotland footballer, 44; Prof Sir Alan Peacock, economist, 74; Peter Pike, Labour MP, 68; Nicholas Polunin, environmentalist, author, 87; Emma Porteus, costume designer, 60; Lord Rawlinson, QC, former Conservative Attorney-General, 77; Philippe Streiff, racing driver, 41; Prof Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 63; Colin Wilson, author, 65; David Wilson, Labour MP, 63; Marta Zuleta-Hinrichsen, economist, anthropologist, 59.

Death Notices

SEWARD, Ian Richard, on 21st June, 1996, his 59th year. All enquiries to Blackburn's Funeral Services, 111, 113 & 115, Market Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1JL. Tel: 01752 322222.

MR GIBBSON of Mossley, Birmingham and Fellingby, Yorkshire. Passed peacefully at home in Birmingham on Wednesday 21st June, 1996, aged 84 years. Greatly loved by Mrs Gibson. Flowers accepted by Mrs Gibson. Burial at Westwood Crematorium on Thursday 27th June at 1.30 pm. Relatives invited to attend at Lodge Hill Crematorium which will be held in Pink Triangle. A Malaysian Malay Education and Support Organisation in E. Edwards, 27 Grosvenor Hill, North Birmingham B29 4JH. Cremation on Saturday, 22nd June 1996, 10.30 am. Friends of Thomas of Oxford, Salisbury and London. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 27th June, 1996 at 11.30 am at St. Edmund's Church, Enderby Street, Salisbury. Burial at Westwood Crematorium on Thursday 27th June at 1.30 pm. Friends invited to attend at Lodge Hill Crematorium which will be held in Pink Triangle. A Malaysian Malay Education and Support Organisation in E. Edwards, 27 Grosvenor Hill, North Birmingham B29 4JH. Telephone 0121 713 4567. Fax 0121 713 4122.

Men from

Men from

Finance Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Faults rock nuclear sell-off

Stations under investigation for fuel problems

Paul Brown and Chris Barville

SIX of the eight nuclear stations due to be privatised are under investigation by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) because they have developed problems with uranium fuel in the heart of the reactors.

With the Government due to unveil the price and final details of the nuclear sell-off this morning, the NII said damaged fuel pins had been found in Hunterston B in Ayr and Hinkley Point B in Somerset, and it was investigating the "long-term implications".

The long-term profitability of the industry which is being privatised as British Energy. The stations not suspected of having the damage are Sizewell B and Dungeness B, which have a slightly different fuel design but are the worst performing of all the nuclear stations. The company has warned repeatedly that its ability to keep its stations running is fundamental to its finances.

The NII statement followed a letter from a "group of professional scientific staff" within British Energy to the Guardian. They said they feared for their jobs and their pensions if their identities were discovered but felt, for public safety reasons, that the fault needed to be disclosed. But NII said last night it had carried out an initial investigation "into wear on fuel pins resulting from fuel brace fretting and is satisfied that the AGR stations remain safe to operate".

The trade and industry department said the problem with the AGR fuel rods was known. Ministers and BE management had said that safety was paramount. The scientists told the Guardian that, two weeks ago, the problem was discovered to be far worse than has been disclosed. The discovery of the damage to fuel in the storage ponds at Hunterston B sparked the investigation. Exactly the same defect was found at Hinkley Point B. The damage to the inside of the fuel pin is probably

caused by vibration as the cooling carbon dioxide is pumped around the system. In an emergency shut-down, damaged fuel pins could break, releasing fission products into the cooling gas which is then vented into the atmosphere. It could then contaminate the area downwind of the reactor. The scientists say "the numbers of fuel pins failing in an accident would be many times greater than the safety case allowed for".

Notebook

Psion deal a mark of UK excellence



Edited by Alex Brummer

MUCH of the focus on the proposed £200 million absorption of Amstrad by Psion is on the demise of Alan Sugar's business empire, rather than the creation of a new centre of UK technological excellence.

Competition will eventually force the banks to offer the service free of charge. However, the drift towards electronic payments is inexorable. Payment by plastic is just a way of transferring electronic payments. Carrying stored value on the plastic card itself is a logical step forward. Visa and Mastercard, the two largest consumer payment systems, are also working with the likes of Microsoft and IBM to develop a secure on-line payments system which will open the floodgates for shopping via the Internet.

Bearing witness

IT is a measure of the corrupted atmosphere in which fraud trials are currently discussed that Kevin Maxwell's article in today's Guardian — in which he passionately criticises the idea of taking jurors out of the trial process — may be seen as special pleading. Mr Maxwell has been a fraud defendant; he denied the charges, was tried and acquitted. If anyone has a measure of expertise, he has. Whether Mr Maxwell is right to accuse Serious Fraud Office director George Staple of attempting to load the dice in favour of the Crown is, in a way, beside the point. The heart of the matter is this: is a panel of judges, or of "expert assessors", any substitute in terms of fairness — for 12 good citizens and trust? It was an error for Mr Staple, in his call on Monday at the London School of Economics for the re-opening of the question of jury trials, to enlist the fact that 80 per cent of criminal cases are heard by magistrates, not jurors. Despite the change of name, a magistrates court is a police court; its role is to punish offenders brought up from the local station.

Governance gap

INVESTORS in DIY group Wickes are angrily muttering about poor corporate governance and things having to change. But, once again, they have only themselves to blame. There was no secret about Henry Sweetbaum being both chairman and chief executive, a dual role which is a violation of the non-executives, nor the record of poor communication with the City. Investing institutions knew all about that. They should have acted earlier. Conspiring with the Cadbury Code is no guarantee of good business practice, but it helps. If institutional shareholders are not happy, their duty is to insist on changes. It is a privilege which small shareholders do not have.

Visa plus

ELECTRONIC cash is already being pushed as a wonderful new convenience for customers, doing away with visits to the bank and providing a vehicle for untold new services. But consumers should be in no doubt: electronic cash systems such as Visa Cash and Mondex are designed mainly to boost corporate profits by cutting money-handling costs. The consumers' convenience is a poor second. Consumers should be wary of any attempt to make them pay for such services. This would just be paying to let the banks make bigger profits.

Chief executives face demands for their removal as bitter shareholders take a beating

Strong's head on the block

Pauline Springett

DISGRUNTLED Sears shareholders yesterday spent nearly two hours lambasting the company's board and calling for the head of chief executive Liam Strong at a stormy annual general meeting in London.

Anger at the retail group's poor performance had clearly been exacerbated by the recent fiasco surrounding the sale of some of its shoe businesses to the now collapsed Facis Group.

Sears made a pre-tax loss of £120 million for the year to the end of January 1996, a performance described as "terrible" by one shareholder. "If this is your best I'm sorry for you and Liam Strong should go," he said in a call which triggered loud applause from the 350-strong audience.

Another shareholder said the board had received "ridiculous salaries for an absolutely pathetic performance. We'd like to see someone else running the outfit".

The meeting may increase the already-strong pressure on Mr Strong to depart. He has been at Sears for four years and there is growing City speculation that several of the company's institutional investors are becoming impatient with him.



Satisfied customers... but business was far from brisk at the DIY group's store in Edmonton, north London, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEAVER

Wickes suspended on accounting alert

Roger Cowe

DIRECTORS of do-it-yourself group Wickes were last night trying urgently to agree measures aimed at reassuring investors after its shares were suspended yesterday morning in the wake of a warning about "serious accounting problems".

The company's shares dropped 40p to 69p in the 53 minutes between the warning and the shares being suspended. Investors were last night calling for board changes, although they were awaiting

further details today before considering specific demands. One fund manager commented: "The current position of the board is untenable".

The primary focus of the institutions' concern is likely to be the dual role of Henry Sweetbaum, who is chairman and chief executive, despite the recommendation in the Cadbury Code on corporate governance that the roles be split.

Mr Sweetbaum is a financier who led the buy-out of Wickes from its US parent in 1982 and subsequently floated the company on the Stock Exchange in 1986. He was paid

more than £1 million last year because of long-term bonuses, despite the company recording a £258 million loss following the disposal of its timber interests.

Wickes' former finance director, Trevor Llewellyn, left to join building materials company Caradon almost a year ago.

He was succeeded by Stuart Stradling, formerly with the company's financial advisers, SBC Warburg. A fund manager asked yesterday: "If there have been accounting problems, why has it taken a year for the new finance director to uncover them?"

In its statement first thing yesterday morning, Wickes said the problems had emerged only on Monday.

The board is meeting later today following the discovery yesterday of serious accounting problems," the statement said.

Wickes said the problems related to "the timing of recognition of profit from supplier contributions". "This is believed to refer to payments or discounts from suppliers, which may have been prematurely included in profits."

However Wickes also upset institutions by failing to make clear what the problems were, how substantial they were, or even which years were affected.

The statement said profits and shareholders' funds for 1995 had probably been overstated, but earlier years may also have been wrong.

"It is not possible to quantify the magnitude of these overstatements at present," the company said, adding that the cash position at the end of December was thought to be accurate.

Men from Pru to float M&G for spending spree

Pauline Springett and Cliff Jones

SPECULATION that Prudential was poised to make a takeover bid for the Woolwich Building Society reached fever pitch yesterday when the insurer announced plans to float its reinsurance arm Mercantile & General later this year.

Peter Davis, chief executive of the Pru, the UK's largest life insurer, said he expected to sell about half the group's stake in M&G, which has no connection with the unit trust group. Analysts estimate it would have a market capitalisation of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, so the float could net the Pru upwards of £500 million.

The proceeds would boost the Pru's financial firepower and enable it to make a large acquisition without having to resort to a rights issue. City sources believe that the Woolwich settlement with its former chief executive, Peter Robinson, is also a sign that it is clearing its decks for a takeover.



talks with Prudential or any other potential buyer. "I won't speculate on anything in particular," said Mr Davis. He re-confirmed, however, that the Pru would like to buy both a life company and a building society. He also conceded that it was talking generally to many parties, but no talks were "of any significance".

Ex-Woolwich chief drops job claim for £165,000 pension

Teresa Hunter

DISGRACED Woolwich chief executive Peter Robinson will receive an annual pension of about £165,000 for the rest of his life — potentially worth more than £3 million — after he agreed not to sue Britain's third-largest building society for wrongful dismissal.

Mr Robinson, aged 54, who left the Woolwich after he was accused of abusing his position, will start receiving payments immediately — as he seeks to line up a new job. The

society alleged he used Woolwich gardeners, builders and vehicles for personal reasons. There were also allegations of special discounts on loans to acquaintances.

Mr Robinson yesterday again denied the allegations. "I remain convinced that my resignation was completely unnecessary."

The society appeared more conciliatory towards him in agreeing to drop the matter.

The Woolwich's statement said: "The board recognises the significant contribution made by Mr Robinson during his 33 years of service. Unhappily, matters arose — mainly, connected with the use of the society's facilities — which gave rise to a loss of trust, and an investigation by the society's lawyers and auditors has not altered the board's view."

UBS building society analyst Rob Thomas said: "Having castigated him so publicly at the outset, the nature of the settlement is rather surprising. It looks, perhaps, as if the board may now feel it overreacted with the original, very public, rebuke."

The Woolwich stressed that it would not pay compensation for Mr Robinson's two-year broken contract.

decision to float M&G had been the result of a strategic overview. "We have decided to concentrate Prudential's activities in future on retail financial services and related fund management activity," he said.

M&G, which specialises in life and health reinsurance, has clients in over 100 countries and 27 offices worldwide. It has started to recover from a few difficult years. In 1995 it had gross premiums of £1.3 billion and pro-

duced a 13 per cent increase in its pre-tax profit to £196 million.

The whirl of takeover rumours surrounding the Pru and the Woolwich coincided with a statement from the building societies ombudsman denouncing the trend by societies to convert into banks.

Brian Murphy, in his fourth year as ombudsman, said the decisions to convert to bank status were "unlikely to benefit consumers".

'Chile link' duo quit US brokers

Paul Murphy and Mark Tran in New York

Copper crisis

GLOBAL Minerals & Metals, the US metals broker which transacted business for Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo's "rogue trader" who ran up losses of more than £1.2 billion, confirmed yesterday that two of its key executives, Carlos Derpsch and Owen Guarnini, had resigned.

The two men acted for Global in Santiago, where two years ago the Chilean authorities discovered that its state-owned copper trading agency Codelco had run up losses of more than \$200 million. Both

were investigated in relation to the losses but were cleared. "We were advised over the weekend that they were leaving the company," said Peter Haves, Global's attorney. "It was for personal reasons."

Global denied reports that another executive, Johnny Champagne, had also left. The resignations came a week after Global president David Campbell was subpoenaed by a US attorney in New York to testify before a grand jury probing the Sumitomo scandal.

Last week it emerged that Global was operating accounts at the London branch of Merrill Lynch on behalf of Mr Hamanaka. Merrill had said the accounts were opened with the knowledge of senior Sumitomo executives.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.82	France 7.74	Italy 2.322	Singapore 2.12
Belgium 16.25	Germany 2.290	Malta 0.540	South Africa 6.51
Canada 2.065	Greece 365.00	Netherlands 2.5700	Spain 132.50
Cyprus 0.780	Hong Kong 11.83	New Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.17
Denmark 8.00	India 53.02	Norway 9.84	Switzerland 1.80
Finland 7.950	Ireland 0.5425	Portugal 226.00	Turkey 120.265
	Israel 4.97	Saudi Arabia 6.75	USA 1.5075

Supplied by the Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

12 SPORTS NEWS

Rugby Union

Chris Hewett says the Courage champions' bid for Wigan's gifted New Zealanders will send shivers down the spines of their rivals

Bath to sign Paul and Tuigamala

BATH, the league and cup champions, are close to completing a remarkable double signing from rugby league's Wigan that will send shivers down the spines of their rivals. The New Zealanders Henry Paul and Va'auga Tuigamala are expected to agree winter deals with Bath, after playing in last month's cross-code matches between the two clubs. Bath are equally confident of securing the services of the Wales scrum-half Robert Howley, who has confirmed his decision to leave Bridgend. Howley is being chased by Cardiff but is thought to be keen on a big-money stint in England. If all three end up at the Recreation Ground, Bath will possess a back division of awesome potential. Paul and Tuigamala have both played regularly at centre for Wigan and will compete for first-team places with Jeremy Guscutt and his fellow England international Phil De Glanville, who will captain Bath next season. However, De Glanville indicated that the versatile Paul, who took last month's Middlesex Sevens by storm, might be considered as a full-back. Tuigamala, who won 19 caps as an All Black wing before switching to rugby league, would pose an obvious challenge to Bath's existing stable of strike runners, which includes Jon Sleightholme, Simon Geoghegan and Adey Adebayo. Bath's director of rugby John Hall, who talked with Paul on Monday, was unavailable for comment yesterday but De Glanville confirmed that the club were in negotiations with both Wigan players. "I'd be more than happy to play alongside someone as talented as Henry Paul in any position," he said. Neighbouring Bristol are easing the bitter disappointment of losing their scrum-half Kyran Bracken, who was on the England bench last season, to Saracens by talking to a number of potential replacements, including three of Bath's top four half-backs. Marcus Olan and Simon Johnson have signalled an interest in moving to the Memorial Ground, but Bristol will also speak to Bath's Scottish international Andy Nicol when he returns from Scotland's tour of New Zealand. The Bristol spokesman David Tyler said: "We've got a fair few options, for the simple reason that Kyran's departure means we have a No. 1 berth on offer. Not that we want to be in this situation; we thought an agreement with Kyran and we're pretty unhappy about the way things have happened." Tyler added that the England second-row Simon Shaw, who is on the road to full fitness after serious knee and ankle problems, had signed a two-year deal with the club. Shaw, one of the most talented tight forwards in European rugby, had been chased by both Bath and Wasps before agreeing to stay put. The former England manager Geoff Cooke yesterday became director of rugby at Bedford. He links up with Paul Turner, the Courage League Two side's new player-coach. Craig Quinlan, the 21-year-old Llanelli flanker, will today join his brother Scott at Richmond, also in Courage League Two.



Code breaker... Wigan's Tuigamala hands off Robinson of Bath in last month's historic match at Twickenham

Racing

Wakeham well placed for BHB role

ANYONE doubting the enthusiasm for racing of Lord Wakeham, the new chairman of the British Horseracing Board, should know that he once chartered a private plane to fly himself to Fairhouse to see the Dikler run in the Irish National. John Wakeham is, of course, more readily identified as a leading Tory, having entered parliament in 1974 where he held various senior positions, including chief whip, secretary of state for energy and leader of the House of Commons before retiring two years ago. At 64, he remains a man of prodigious energy and rises each day at 5.30 a.m. to fulfil a punishing schedule which would have many a young thruster suffering from acute stress syndrome. Being chairman of four public companies as well as the BHB and the Press Complaints Commission is apparently not enough to keep him busy and he holds two non-executive directorships in this country and one in the United States. Racing can rest assured, therefore, that as the first non-member of the Jockey Club to be running the game, he has considerable academic acumen and political influence. The object is that he uses it to secure an industry which employs nearly 100,000 people but suffers from lack of finance. Wakeham sees three key areas of improvement through self-help, government aid and communication. It is in the realms of government assistance that his contacts could prove vital, provided the Conservatives remain in power for this is a man who gave John Major his first job as a junior minister. "The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary are both interested in racing, although I would think the Chancellor is more of a football fan," said Wakeham. "As yet, finances and betting arrangements are not satisfactory and racing has an unfinished agenda. We must put an unanswerable case for a further reduction in betting duty, the essence being that if we get it down more people will be encouraged to bet and government revenue will not suffer." Such a submission will be made in late July or the beginning of August when he says politicians will have more time to digest it — he remembers he once went on holiday laden with 5,000 pages of policy suggestions to read. Few would dispute the principle of his argument and he regards a further government concession as a "realistic prospect", particularly if the trend is for a general reduction in taxation. On a more parochial matter, he is not in favour of switching the Derby back to Wednesday, at least not yet, and will be concurring with the decision of Epsom, expected to be announced shortly, to stay with Saturday. "I wouldn't be in too much of a hurry to change back," he said. "The jury is still out and I think we should see what it looks like in a few years' time."

Carlisle with guide to the latest form

Table of horse racing results for Carlisle, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Kempton tonight

Table of horse racing results for Kempton, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Salisbury

Table of horse racing results for Salisbury, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Chester card tonight

Table of horse racing results for Chester, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Widow Maiden Stakes

Table of horse racing results for the Widow Maiden Stakes, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

9.10 Pembrokeshire Handicap

Table of horse racing results for the 9.10 Pembrokeshire Handicap, including race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including Lincoln, Yarmouth, and Salisbury, with race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and times.

Wimbledon Matchline advertisement featuring 'Latest Scores and Results', 'Top player's results to date', and contact information for 0891 700 326 and 0891 700 327.

Advertisement for Dr. Massini, a veterinarian, with the headline 'Kinane on Dr Massini but all the money is for Alhaarth'. The text describes a horse named Michael Kinane and his owner, Mick Kinane, who is a fan of the horse Alhaarth.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page for 'Henn Russell' and 'Freem' products, featuring a 'Wanted' sign and a 'Freem' logo.

WIMBLEDON: DAY TWO

Henman makes Russian look green on grass

Stephen Bierley sees French champion humbled by British hope's glittering array

TIM HENMAN, Britain's No. 1, pulled off the most astonishing triumph of his short career with a tumultuous 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5 victory over the newly minted French Open champion, in front of a captivated Centre Court here yesterday.

thrillingly the 21-year-old Briton snapped back Kafelnikov, a year older, double-faulted at 6-6 and Henman served out for the first-set victory.

appeared likely Henman would ultimately lose. Then, in the 10th game, Kafelnikov double-faulted to present Henman with two break points. He needed only one. All was square again and Kafelnikov's nerves were jangling.



A backhand for the future... the British No. 1 Tim Henman shows poise and determination to upset Yevgeny Kafelnikov

Gloom overtakes Stich

Paul Weaver on the stylish German whose party pooping is being hampered by injury

MICHAEL STICH arrived grumpy in the past two Wimbledon, stumping out of the tournament in the first round both times.

He is one of the most elegant players at this year's championships and may be forgiven for not smiling much lately. He has come through difficult times, although his win over Thomas Muster on his way to the final of the French Open suggests his rehabilitation was complete.

Stich looked in impressive form in the first set, breaking for 4-2 and winning it 6-3 in 24 minutes. But Schalken, 56th in the rankings, surprised his opponent by taking the second by the same score.

Rare sighting of the mature Shriver

Frank Keating on the trail of hearty young Hingis and a graceful American veteran

STEVE GRAF cruised through, almost as smoothly as Monica Seles did on Monday. Ditto Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, just as Conchita Martinez had done the day before.

child prodigy, 15-year-old Martina Hingis, who thumping dispatched the grown-up Jana Nedeljkovic of Canada by 6-2, 6-2.

ence asked: "Do you want the questions in German?" "No," she replied. "In Swiss-German, please." So only Swiss-Germans knew what she was saying, but she looked happy about it.

longs to Miss K Po, Miss P Hy having married since last year: she now calls herself Hy-Boulais.

of the Athletes For Bush-Quayle '88. Benjamin would have drooled too. Her great foxtail-brush of hair streamed down her back, and golden bracelets glittered at her wrist.

For the best deal, buy Cellphones

Advertisement for mobile phones. Features a Nokia 1610 phone and text: 'LIMITED OFFER £4.99 INC. VAT', 'ONE SECOND BILLING', 'BEST COVERAGE', 'FREE ACCESSORIES'. Includes a freephone number: 0800 000 888.

Results

Men's Singles
Holder: P Sampras (US)
First round
(S seeds in capitals)
J. Hahn (GER) 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 vs S. Schalken (GER) 6-1, 6-2, 6-3

Men's Doubles
Holder: T A Woodbridge & M Woodforde (AUS)
First round
M J Davidson & S Kirk (AUS) 6-1, 6-2 vs D. Adams & P. Pietrangeli (USA) 6-1, 6-2

Women's Singles
Holder: S Graf (GER)
First round
A. Hingis (SLO) 6-1, 6-2 vs C. Lesch (GER) 6-1, 6-2

Order of play

Court 1 (12.00): S. Graf (GER) vs S. Schalken (GER)
Court 2 (12.00): J. Hahn (GER) vs S. Schalken (GER)
Court 3 (12.00): M. Hingis (SLO) vs C. Lesch (GER)



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14 SPORTS NEWS

Cricket

NatWest Trophy: Oxfordshire v Lancashire

Lancashire far from fall guys

Mike Selvey at Aston Rowant

EACH year at this time various Minor Counties await the first round of the NatWest Trophy with relief, waiting to split a custard pie in the face of a hapless first-class side. It has happened eight times since 1964, when the minnows were first allowed to play with the big fish.

Yorkshire have been the fall guys twice and so have Derbyshire, who at a sudden Bishop's Stortford watched aghast as Devon Malcolm habitually dived the ball over the top of the stumps, Gloucestershire, Essex (in the second round), Somerset and Northamptonshire have come unstuck once.

But eight mishaps is no justification for paranoia. Offers of county cricket are a choice of a bouncy green-top, with Allan Donald at one end and Waqar Younis at the other, or a rural pudding pitch and a medium-paced garage mechanic bowling there or thereabouts and it is no contest.

Lancashire's recent heritage is rooted in the 60-overs competition, however, and rural Oxfordshire held no terrors for them yesterday. In sumptuous weather the wooded slopes of the Chilterns and adjoined by corn-

fields, was nirvana after Lord's, Dickie's tears and five days of international confrontation.

It was the equivalent of a fortnight at a health farm for Mike Atherton and Peter Martin; cricket at the blunt end. Atherton, strapped for runs recently, managed only four in the first 10 overs but went on to make 78, and there were entertaining half-centuries from Mike Watkinson, whose 82 contained four sixes, and Nick Speak, whose 83 was his highest in the competition.

A score of 316 for seven was like having 21 million in the bank and getting a 500 gas bill. Oxfordshire, realising that the task was not so much uphill as the Eiger's north face, settled for respectability after an untidy start that saw Ian Austin take the charity off-runners.

But there was a pleasant surprise enough 57 from Stuart Lauren, an electrical technician who has represented the Minor Counties, 42 for Bruce Ellison, whose competitive medium pace earlier had brought him three wickets and troubled the Lancashire batsmen most, and 61 not out from Charles Knightly.

Lancashire play Northamptonshire at Old Trafford in the next round in a preview to their Benson and Hedges final three days later.



Beating a rural retreat... Nick Speak had time to enjoy the Oxfordshire surroundings as much as his 83 runs for Lancashire at Aston Rowant yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK EARON

Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire

Fell runs come before the trip

David Hopps at Sleaford

THE most notable achievement on this ground came back in 1851 when 23 of Sleaford beat an England XI by two runs. The county of Lincolnshire might just have achieved similar celebrity but, limited to 11, the Minor County could manage only respectability as they succumbed to Gloucestershire by 87 runs.

London Road is one of the oldest grounds in the country. Barges might no longer chug up the Slea, and the silver-domed corn mill, shimmering on the skyline, is now disused, but

some locals still speak darkly of the ridge available for bowlers operating up an undulating hill.

Courtney Walsh preferred to be slope-assisted and, when he caused Gloucestershire to play on in his second over, Lincolnshire were 18 for four and the groundsman was wishing he had not left a little bit more grass on than usual.

Smith had done most damage, Evans falling in his second over, Gillett and Rawden in his third. Fell's second 83 briefly electrified the crowd and will do no harm to the sales figures in his florist's shop, as Lincolnshire were dismissed for 135.

They had fleetingly contemplated an upset as Neil Gill, an electrical contractor summoned from Windhill in the Bradford League, swung his left-armers enough to dismiss both Gloucestershire's openers in his first two overs.

Between overs he trotted down to long leg, signed enough autographs to fill several wastepaper baskets at Carres Grammar School, then trotted back up the slope to bowl again. Two late wickets and a run-out, as he reacted with alacrity to dismiss Lewis off his own bowling) left him four for 44, Lincolnshire's best return in this competition.

is one of the most fretful in the professional calendar, a player's nightmare of unpredictable pitches, unknown bowlers and drunks in the gents' toilet. Symonds was oblivious (final 60, perhaps, that he is Australian), and collected 87 from 83 balls before he was stumped.

Russell, England's Lord's saviour, must have observed a Gloucestershire score of 130 for five and wondered when he would be allowed to relax. Warnly applauded on to the field, he unveiled his crisis portfolio of anxious hops and furtive nudges as 27 in as many overs edged Gloucestershire to safety.

Cornwall v Warwickshire

Cornish cream far from clotted

David Foot at St Austell

THAT Warwickshire, who are the champions after all, eventually won in a dawdle by 183 runs. The Cornish cream was the most hospitable of counties, morning surprises from the home bowlers. But when it was Cornwall's turn to bat only their sterling openers Gary Thomas and Steve Williams offered any semblance of hope against a depleted attack to cheer their 4,000 spectators sprawled on the grass banks.

Could there be a better argument for the spirit of NatWest cricket at this preliminary stage? The lovely, quaintly named Wheal Eliza

ground, carved costly out of the wooded hillside, with hollyhocks in the hedgerows behind the bowlers' arms, provided a relaxed, noisy day out.

Cornwall may be the most hospitable of counties, morning surprises from the home bowlers. But when it was Cornwall's turn to bat only their sterling openers Gary Thomas and Steve Williams offered any semblance of hope against a depleted attack to cheer their 4,000 spectators sprawled on the grass banks.

Warwickshire lost their first four wickets for 78 by the 10th over, hardly a reassuring response to recent championship defeats against Yorkshire and Kent.

Angove, a name as authentically native as Cornish clay itself, finished with four for 66 and the match award. There was a no-nonsense approach to his fast bowling applauded at least in spirit by Warwickshire, who had monitored him at Edgubaston and may still come for him.

But Warwickshire gradually decided they were not on their West Country holiday. Indeed, they got to 311 for nine, no small thanks to Trevor Penney's 90. He is often at his best with signs of imminent wreckage about him. He accumulates

at a notable pace, largely because of the way he places his shots, even if often leaving his partners out of breath by his indecent athleticism between the wickets. There were eight fours and two sixes from him.

Brown, too brought middle-order ballast, and Burns swung for runs at the end. All that time Cornwall fielded with energetic enthusiasm. Kent did concede only 23 runs at medium pace, though the policeman, Glover, earned altogether less respect his figures of two for 107 were the most expensive so far in the competition.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes NatWest Trophy First round, Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire, Lancashire v Gloucestershire, and other matches.

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes Cornwall v Warwickshire, Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire, and other matches.

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes Cornwall v Warwickshire, Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire, and other matches.

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score. Includes Cornwall v Warwickshire, Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire, and other matches.

...mans

...rugby League
England have
Wales in Euro

Wells leads rush of runs with 201

THE minnows were well out of their depth against the first-class counties on a day of heavy scoring and tumbling records.

Vince Wells's second double century in six days for Leicestershire, in the 108-run win against Berkshire, was the county's best individual score in the competition and the second-highest in one-day cricket in England.

It took the opener only 165 balls to make 201, which included 38 fours and five sixes. His score contributed almost half of Leicestershire's total of 406 for five, which was seven short of the record.

For the visitors, Harry Hall became the first Berkshire player to score a NatWest century, and that on his debut in the competition.

At Southampton Jason Lansy and John Stephenson put Hampshire on course for a 59-run win over Norfolk with a competition-record first-wicket stand of 269, beating the previous best of 255 shared by Durham.

Both hit centuries, but the 33-year-old Lansy had the satisfaction of emulating Roy Marshall and Barry Richards as Hampshire's only batsmen in the competition's history to reach three figures before lunch. He was also the county's first player to score 100 on his 60-over debut.

Handwritten signature: J. P. 150

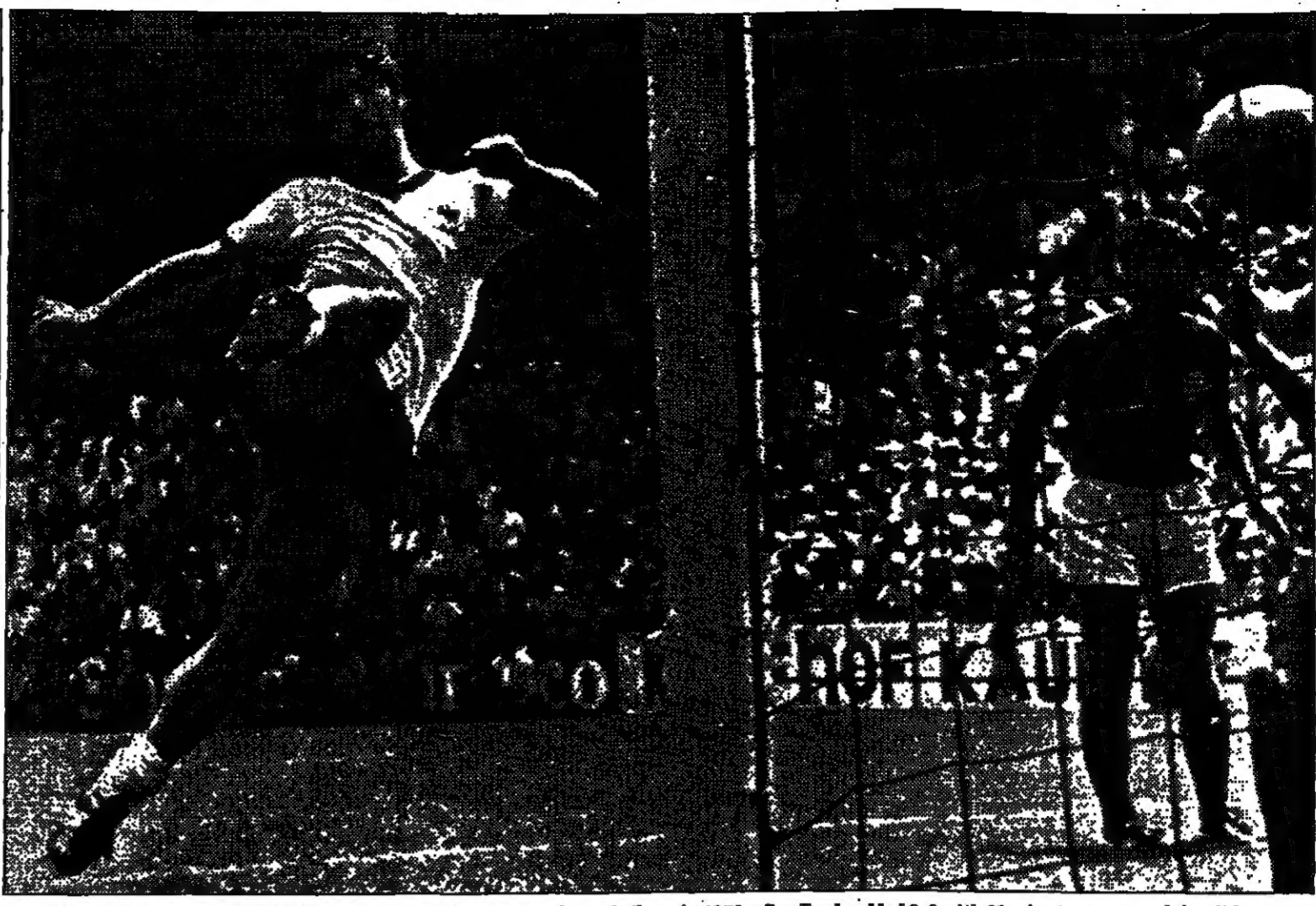
EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS

Vogts milks the Klinsmann calf

Martin Thorpe finds Germany's manager making the most of his top striker's injury

THERE was a hint yesterday that the Germans were trying to play a warm-up game against England ahead of tonight's main event. It involved a sick German calf, though it had nothing to do with mad cow disease. The calf's owner was Jürgen Klinsmann, renewing acquaintance with the capital after his season-long stay at Tottenham but again missing out on a Wembley appearance, this time because of a leg injury. Or not, as Bert Vogts tried to suggest at a press conference yesterday. When Vogts said that Klinsmann would "in all likelihood" be out it prompted the inquiry: Is there a possibility he could play, then? "Yes," replied Vogts, amazingly. "With the doctors and physio we have, anything is possible. Jürgen is well known for healing quickly." The English journalists began to buzz. Perhaps Klinsmann's injury was a ruse after all. Come to think of it, why had the Germans decided at the last minute to exclude the press from their Wembley training camp last night? But the striker was not playing Vogts's game, or against England. "While our doctors are very good I personally made it public yesterday that I don't really feel I'll be playing tomorrow," he said. "Such an injury usually takes a couple of weeks to heal. If you want to clutch at straws there is a chance of me being fit for the final, but not being able to play in the semi-final is very frustrating."

through joy or disappointment he could not predict. Yes, Vogts had watched the 1986 game on television and he hoped the infamous incident would not be repeated. No, Wembley would not be intimidating for his players, they had played in other great stadiums. No, the game would not be too emotional for them; Germany are quite used to reaching the semi-finals of major tournaments. And what about the tabloids? "The fact that it is the British media and population that have come out in protest against that sort of reporting speaks for itself and I am very grateful for that," said Klinsmann, before warning: "The team can easily shrug it off and smile about it but I am afraid there is a knock-on effect on the 7,000 German fans at Wembley so I hope the atmosphere will remain calm and peaceful." He was not contradicting himself when he predicted "a very offence-orientated game"; it was merely a quirk of the translation. And Vogts took up the peace line: "I am sure that the country that created the world's fair play and the spectators will abide by that rule and they will welcome the German team with friendly applause," he said. He was giving little away about what that team might be. Yes, he might play one or two tonight, though he might also play Bierhoff and Kuntz together. As for Semmer, "I leave it completely up to his own intuition what he will do at any one time on the pitch." And will the result tonight be equally unpredictable? "The fact that it is England and they are the hosts means our chances of moving forward are greatly reduced," said Vogts. "And because we have four players missing, England will start favourites." Oh come on, Bert. Not more games.



Downhill all the way... Gerd Müller scores West Germany's winner in Leon in 1970, after England led 2-0 with 20 minutes to go, and the slide was on

David Lacey charts the history of England v Germany encounters since the World Cup triumph in 1966

Thirty years of hurt...

1966 Wembley, July 30 (World Cup final) England 4, West Germany 2 (aet) England's most famous victory but only after a scrappy 90 minutes had been redeemed by the dramas of extra time. Fussy Swiss refereeing did nothing to give the match an even flow. Hurst's hat-trick made history but Ball was England's hero in the last half-hour, pursuing and scolding all the way. SCORERS: England: Hurst 3, Peters; West Germany: Müller, Weber.

1968 Hanover, June 1 (friendly) West Germany 1, England 0 Significant only now as the first time England lost to a German team. Only four of Alf Ramsey's 1966 side — Banks, Moore, Ball and Hurst — played in this game. By now Vogts was established in the West German defence and Beckenbauer was fulfilling his immense potential. The most however, was to come. SCORERS: England: none; West Germany: Beckenbauer.

1970 Leon, June 14 (World Cup quarter-final) England 2, West Germany 3 This, like the earlier 1-0 defeat by Brazil, saw England play some of the best football in their history only to lose their crown. At 2-0 with 20 minutes to go they seemed safe. Then came Bonetti's error, Beckenbauer's goal, Ramsey's withdrawal of Charlton — and nemesis. SCORERS: England: none; West Germany: Beckenbauer, Bonetti, Müller.

1972 Wembley, April 29 (European Championship quarter-final, second leg) West Germany 0, England 0 The return match found Ramsey at his most perverse. Needing to score at least twice to stand a chance of staying in the tournament, he packed his midfield with muscle. Storey and Hunter were brought in as part of a damp-age-limitation exercise. The Germans were happy to play out a goalless clinch. SCORERS: England: none; West Germany: none.

1975 Wembley, March 12 (friendly) England 2, West Germany 0 Alan Hudson's match, Don Revie's defence was a hybrid — Watson and Beattie in the middle, Whitworth and Gillard at full-back — but the attack of Macdonald, Channon, Hudson and Keegan gelled. Ball was captain. Later he and Hudson missed a curfew; neither played for England again. SCORERS: England: Hudson 2; West Germany: none.

1978 Munich, February 23 (friendly) West Germany 2, England 1 An unusual game in that Worn, having scored for the

stopped Kalts getting in dangerous crosses, but Stielke, the German sweeper, had denied England more than the odd glimpse of goal. Rummenigge hit the bar in the closing minutes. SCORERS: England: none; West Germany: Rummenigge 2.

1982 Madrid, June 29 (World Cup quarter-final) England 0, West Germany 0 The least memorable of England's four World Cup encounters with West Germany. Afterwards Ron Greenwood pointed out that his team had

1985 Mexico City, June 12 (Pre-World Cup 'friend') England 3, West Germany 0 The scoreline hides the reality. Franz Beckenbauer had taken over the German squad and did not want to go to Mexico. But the contract had been signed, so England faced reluctant, jet-lagged opponents in the Azteca's this air. Still, Shilton saved a penalty and Dixon took his goals with aplomb. SCORERS: England: Platt, Gossens, Gossens; West Germany: none.

1987 Düsseldorf, September 9 (friendly) West Germany 3, England 1 Back to reality, England were no match for Beckenbauer's rebuilt team, who outplayed Robson's side in the opening 35 minutes. Again Litzke was a problem and the young Adams struggled against Völler. At 2-0 Linke restored England's dignity, but only briefly. SCORERS: England: Litzke 2, Watts; West Germany: none.

1990 Turin, July 4 (World Cup semi-final) England 1, West Germany 1 (losing on penalties with the final so close has left England with wretched memories of Turin) compounded by the free-kick from Rehm that spun in off Parker before Linke's late goal took the game to extra time. Waddle and Buchwald each hit a post. Then came penalties and, for Pearce, purgatory. SCORERS: England: Lineker; West Germany: Bruns.

1991 Wembley, September 11 (friendly) England 0, Germany 1 Graham Taylor's first defeat in his 13th match as England manager. He was not happy, complaining bitterly about the poor marking that allowed Riedle a free header after Matthias had set up Doll for the cross. Taylor described the goal as "one moment of madness". More were to follow. SCORERS: Germany: Riedle.

1993 Detroit, June 19 (US Cup) England 1, Germany 2 Given the debacle in Norway, followed by humiliation against the United States in Boston, it was almost a relief to get back to normal. If performing inside a giant pressure-cooker could be so described, Taylor dispensed with full-backs, which suited the Germans. Platt's goal was neat but irrelevant. SCORERS: England: Platt; Germany: Ebersole, Klinsmann.

Germans positively happy

John Duncan finds visiting supporters pleasantly surprised by their welcome

THE German experience of Euro 96 has been, incredibly positive, according to the Fan Projekt workers who have come to England to iron out any problems. They have worked alongside English supporters for four weeks now and the only time anyone has said no to them was when Uefa refused to let them unfurl a giant banner saying "Thank you Manchester after their last game at Old Trafford." "It surprised us how warm English people have been," said Thomas Schneider, one of the team of German fan ambassadors speaking in the Football Supporters' Association's quarterly dinner at Piccadilly Circus. "The cliché of the English is of being reserved and cool, of not liking to

ing that there was a prize being offered by English hooligans for every dead German. It was just rubbish and I think the police are investigating the programme makers. "The thing about the German hooligans is that they don't necessarily come to trouble just because they are here. They have two sides to them and we prayed before the tournament that the fun side would come out and it has. "I think part of the reason, too, is that the Germans who were part of youth sections, like skin-heads, have friends over here and are meeting up with them for a few beers. They know, because they have been here before, that if they come for a laugh they will be welcome but if they come looking for trouble they will get more than they bargained for. They just aren't interested in a fight."

Italy pair to go but Croatia coach must stay

THE president of the Italian soccer federation, Antonio Matarrese, and the coach Arrigo Sacchi face the sack after Italy's elimination from the European Championship. But Croatia's coach Miroslav Blazevic, who resigned after his team's quarter-final defeat by Germany, has been told he must honour his contract. Matarrese, who recently extended Sacchi's contract, had based his re-election campaign on Italy's success under the coach, and the side's early

exit led to bitter criticism of them both. The league president Luciano Nizzola is tipped to succeed Matarrese, and Sacchi may be replaced by Cesare Maldini, coach of Italy Under-21. Meanwhile the Croatian federation's deputy director Vlatko Markovic said of Blazevic: "Resignation is out of the question. He has signed a contract that is law and must be respected." Before leaving London, however, Blazevic insisted to Croatian journal-

Rugby League

England have edge to oust Wales in European decider

ENGLAND'S record victory over France at Gateshead two weeks ago did not do a lot for the game's international credibility, but the European Championship decider against the title holders Wales in Cardiff tonight should be a much more competitive affair. It was not one of the brightest pieces of fixture-planning to hold this game on the same night as the European soccer semi-final at Wembley, but the fact that the Cronulla Sharks and Wales centre Alan Bateman was prepared to make a round-trip of 24,000 miles to play in it shows what it means to some people. Despite the number of players lost by the World Cup, their side contains two dazzling youngsters in the stand-out halves, Harry Harris and the hooker Kieron Cunningham. Wales will give a fitness test to Anthony Sullivan

Athletics

Flying Fredericks

FRANKIE FREDERICKS, Linford Christie's training partner, last night served notice that he is the favourite to inherit the Briton's Olympic 100 metres title when he produced one of the greatest sprint performances of all time. The 25-year-old from Namibia made the world champion Donovan Bailey look ordinary in a Grand Prix meeting in Helsinki and a powerful last 40 metres brought him home in 9.87sec, only 0.02 outside Leroy Royell's world record. In a performance made all the more stunning because it was so unexpected, Fredericks beat Bailey by four metres on a night so cold that the crowd wore anoraks and gloves. The Briton elevated him to equal third on the all-time list with Christie.

Results

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH (Sydney): Australian Universities 6, Canada 16. Athletics INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (Helsinki): 100m: 1. F Fredericks (Nam) 9.87; 2. D Brathwaite (GB) 10.13; 3. D Bailey (Can) 10.15; 200m: 1. V Dolginov (UKR) 21.92; 2. R Demers (SA) 22.01; 1. D Gata (US) 20.04; 400m: 1. T Thomas (GB) 4:42; 2. D Lugo (US) 4:47; 3. R Guy (Trinidad) 4:50; 800m: 1. G Stewart (GB) 1:52.1; 2. P Mesinger (Can) 1:54.07; 1500m: 1. T Jarvis (GB) 3:49; 2. F Baker (GB) 3:50.3; 5. Tony Chalmers 3:57; 5000m: 1. S Hery (UK) 16:02; 2. P Bodan (New) 16:02; 3. H Hakkarinen (Fin) 16:17. 10000m: 1. M Trandenkov (Rus) 31:10; 2. M Richardson (GB) 31:42; 3. J. G. (Aust) 31:51; 20000m: 1. C. J. (Aust) 58:27; 2. L. Naylor (Aust) 58:32; 3. V Warren (US) 58:38; Long jump: 1. L. (Aust) 7.92; 2. V. (Aust) 7.92; 3. V. (Aust) 7.92; 4. V. (Aust) 7.92. Baseball NATIONAL LEAGUES: Montreal 11, Pittsburgh 3; Florida 2, San Francisco 1; Cincinnati 1, Philadelphia 0; Atlanta 2, St Louis 5; New York Yankees 1, Colorado 1. AMERICAN LEAGUES: Chicago 4, California 2 (1st game); Chicago 4, California 6 (2nd); Minnesota 5, New York Yankees 3; Baltimore 8, Oakland 4, Detroit 2. Hockey WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Madrid): Spain 1, Great Britain 1. Fixtures (17.30 unless stated) Soccer EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Second round: France v Czech Republic (17.00, Oct 1); Portugal v England v Germany (Wembley).

Rugby League

THE Oceania Cup, the most prestigious rugby league tournament, is to have taken place from July 27-31, 1996, in the Pacific Islands. The Rugby Football League's chief executive, said "the event had been put back, probably still after the usual court cases on the dispute between Rupert Murdoch and the Australian Rugby League. Jack Nicklaus has decided to extend his untold run in the Open to 13th by taking part in the Open at Lytham St Anne's on July 18. Nicklaus, 56, had said he would not make the trip to England unless he felt he could be competitive. A solid performance this month in the US Open convinced the American he still had plenty to offer. Nicklaus, who won the Open in 1986 and 1987, will be joined by 11 other former champions including his fellow American Mark O'Meara (1989), the five-times winner Tom Watson and the defending champion John Daly. The youngest participant since Northern Ireland's Román Ramírez in 1980. The former Olympic luger Armin Huber has failed a random dope test for the banned steroid nandrolone, the Italian, one of four luge brothers who competed in the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, had failed the test at a training retreat in Cortina, Italy, on June 12.

Sport in brief

Hockey Mandy Nicholls of Slough scored a brilliant solo goal to edge Great Britain a 1-1 draw with Spain, the Olympic champions, in the first of two international on successive days in Madrid yesterday. Mandy Nicholls, Lucia Lopez chipped the ball high into the net after intercepting a hit-out to give Spain the lead after 25 minutes but three minutes later Nicholls swayed her way through the home defence to score. Boxing Britain's Harry Akinwande has been given a new opponent in his challenge for the vacant WBO heavyweight title in Reno, California on Saturday. The 29-year-old London-based fighter will face the Californian Jeremy Williams after his original opponent Alex Zolken, suffered a badly cut left eye in training. Sailing Lawrie Smith confirmed yesterday in Southampton that he had signed a contract to skipper Team EF's male crewed boat in the Whitbread Race that starts next year, writes Bob Fisher. Johan Sellen, EF's team manager, said Smith had always been first choice "but for a variety of reasons it has taken some time to reach a final agreement." In the fourth race of the Hackett Stihells World Championship at Cowes, Australia's Noel Dyckman beat Britain's Adam Gosling to the finish by two seconds but Gosling's second place leaves him only four points behind the series leader, Jud Smith of the United States, who was fifth yesterday.

Ice Hockey

Telford Tigers have appointed Lee Odelein as coach, writes Vic Batchelor. Odelein, aged 29, is one of three brothers, the eldest of whom, Lyle, won a Stanley Cup medal with the Montreal Canadiens in 1983, a year after Lee was forced to retire after being injured while playing for Bracknell.

Bath turn to rugby league, page 12

Henman denies Paris champion, page 13

The cup comes to Aston Rowant, page 14

Euro 96: The Wembley show-down, pages 15

SportsGuardian

EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS



Standard bearer... Venables at training yesterday, 'a couple of glories from fame at home and fortune abroad'

England v Germany at Wembley

Venables goes for the quick kill

David Lacey weighs the balance of the teams' tactics and says Venables' finest hour hinges on scoring in the first 60 minutes

IF THERE really is such a thing as the triumph of the will, then England have a better than even chance of reaching their second final in a major tournament. Precedent may favour Germany in tonight's European Championship semi-final but the passions of the Wembley crowd will be driving on Terry Venables players with an even greater fervour.

The Germans are in the semi-finals by habit. Since losing to England in 1966 they have contested 15 World Cups and European Championships and failed to reach this stage in only four of them. England, on the other hand, have made it thus far on only four occasions, including 1966.

The chances of England appearing in Sunday's final, possibly against France although the Czechs are surely capable of springing another surprise at Old Trafford this afternoon, seem simple enough. They can win the match in the first hour but the longer the stalemate the greater the likelihood of a German victory.

Yet the prospect of the game being decided by a goal in sudden-death overtime still looks remote. By introducing an additional way to win, Uefa has also burdened teams with another way to lose. Caution has set in earlier.

Another shoot-out, however, is a distinct possibility, and since the Germans lost the 1976 European Championship final to Czechoslovakia on penalties they have made a point of winning these coconut shies. More than that, they have not missed once in three World Cup shoot-outs with France (1982), Mexico (1986) and England (1990).

So it is clearly in England's interest to get the matter settled before Seaman is asked to perform further heroic and Pearce has to resume his duel with German goalkeepers. Venables will choose his team with a quick kill in mind but will be equally aware of the need to preserve wind and limb for a game of attrition.

He will not know until this morning just who is available. Adams and Sheringham should be fit but Gascoigne's ankle is still causing concern and Anderton's strained ham-

string did not allow him to practise yesterday. Redknapp, recovering from damaged ankle ligaments, could be an option but will not be risked unnecessarily.

With Gascoigne, Venables has to consider the intense pace at which tonight's match will probably be played. "He's improving and moved quite well this morning but he's got to do more than that," the England coach observed yesterday.

Venables' prime concern is that England do not wear themselves out too soon through chasing the game, which is what happened against Switzerland. He expects Bert Vogts to employ the usual five-man defence, with Sammer making sudden forward runs and Ziege a consistent threat on the left.

All the signs yesterday were that, with Gary Neville suspended, his 19-year-old brother Philip would be used to counter Ziege's pace through his own brand of athleticism. Since Ince, who

missed the Spain game, is due to return to the midfield, this would mean Platt returning to the bench.

A triumph of the Phil would be crucial in determining the pattern of tonight's match. Having lost both Bobic and Klinsmann to injuries — although Venables is still working on the assumption that the latter will appear at some time during the match — Vogts will either use both Bierhoff and Kuntz up front or push Moller forward to support one of them.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Germany played with just one up," Venables said, "but they don't normally change. Either way we've got to keep the ball. We've also got to try to be direct but their defenders are very hard to shift."

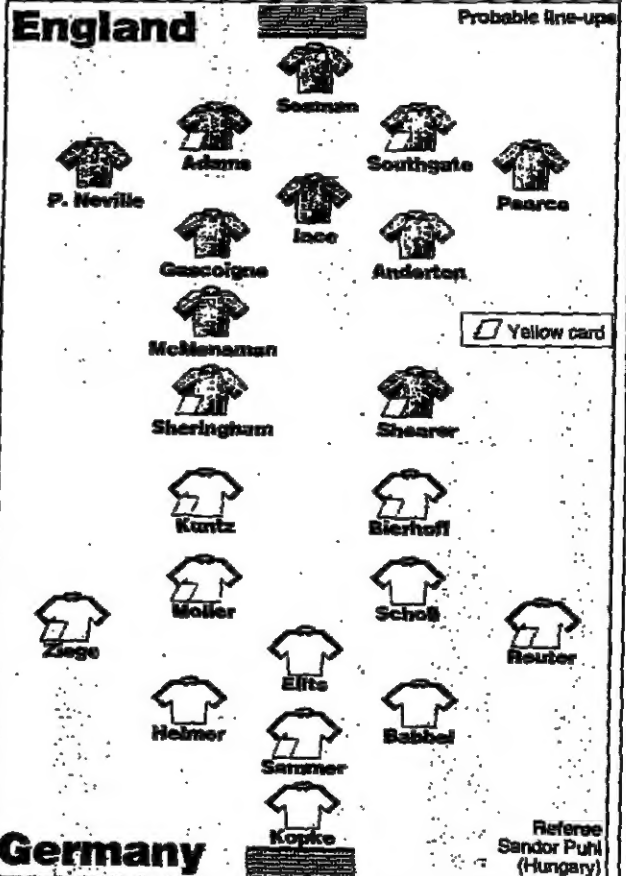
With Shearer likely to struggle for openings against Sammer, Babbel and Helmer, and even a fit Sheringham and Gascoigne lacking the pace of the German defenders, much is going to depend on McManaman being able to

take the ball past opponents to create space. The ability of Ince to infiltrate the German cover is likely to be equally crucial.

Ince offered the thought that, whatever happens now, "we've put England back on the map as far as international football is concerned". Not quite. By reaching the semi-finals as host nation Venables' team have merely confirmed their place on the map of England, no more.

However, reaching the final by overcoming Holland, Spain and Germany would be something else. "There is a great desire in the squad," said Venables. "If it's a matter of wanting success, we're on track. But we've got one problem: they want it as well."

Venables' career as England coach could end tonight. At best he has another four days in office before handing over the squad to Glenn Hoddle. At worst he will be remembered for a gallant effort. But the old Spur could be just a couple of glories and a hallelujah away from fame at home and another fortune abroad. With a little luck, of course.



Punter stakes all on Germany

AT LEAST one Englishman will be cheering on Germany tonight after placing a remarkable £122 accumulator bet on nine sporting selections, writes Neil Robinson. If Bert Vogts' side go on to win the tournament at Wembley, on Sunday he will pick up £201,069.

The mystery punter first approached the bookmaker William Hill last April, picking Manchester United to win the Premiership and Rangers to win the Scottish title. He then correctly forecast the winners of the three other English divisions — Sunderland, Swindon and Preston — and topped off his selections with St Helens for rugby league's Silk Cut Cup, Bosra Sham for the 1,000 Guineas and Mark of Esteem for the 2,000 Guineas.

"It's an incredible strike rate which means that he effectively has over £33,000 running on to Germany to win the tournament," said a spokesman for the bookmaker.

Good luck England from your number one supporter.



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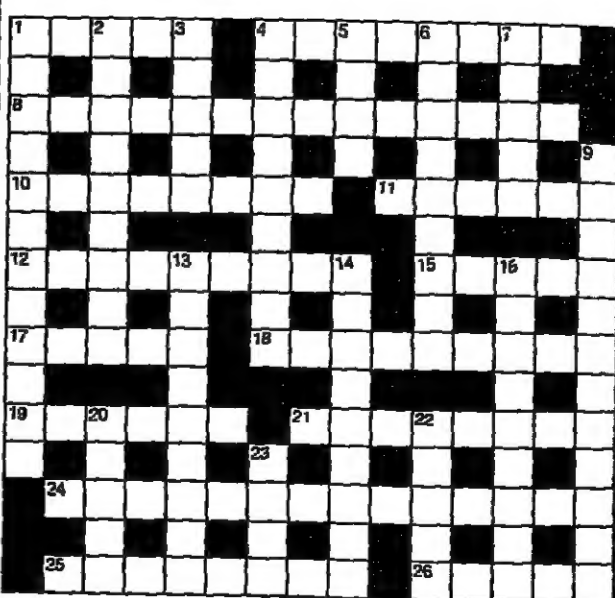
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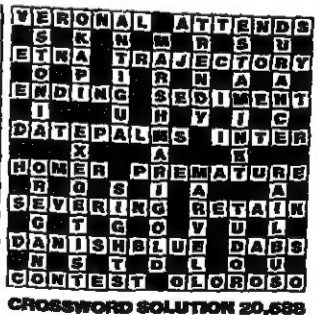
Sports

Guardian Crossword No 20,689 Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 1 See 20
 - 4 Space for pulp developed in the dark? (8)
 - 8 Everywhere it's absolutely finished business (3,4,3,4)
 - 10 Tree needs work around St. David's day (8)
 - 11 English girl, Italian boy, and genuine student missing (6)
 - 12 Chopper needed when there's decay on a tree (9)
 - 15 When a boy's about 1 like 17 and 23 (5)
 - 17 Philosopher of the first degree with painter (5)
 - 18 Novel structure in which a companion to the French, Mary Queen of Scots, was held (9)
 - 19 Plant a runner, perhaps, put in as well (8)
 - 21 Look into questionable firms with a lot of bloomers (8)

- Down**
- 1 Give executors the go-ahead with note about including an insect, an expert filer (5,7)
 - 2 Muslim claim: is it flexible? (9)
 - 3 Not dead meat? (5)
 - 4 A break in the post for dispersing files (4,1-4)
 - 5 Like this little house in London (4)
 - 6 Bitter and, nearly, when it's tranquil outside (8)
 - 7 Ancient bishop at ancient city creates a sink (5)
 - 9 Corridor for drugs going to stall if not kept up (7,5)
 - 13 Equestrian event: only a trip will spoil it (4,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,689

- 14 A device on a banner is better than one on gold (9)
- 16 Home base keeps brother or sister out of sight (9)
- 20, 1-seer Clue for girl student: 17, 23, 3, 19, 4 across 15 25, etc. (5,5)
- 22 King — of Israel — and harlot (5)
- 23 Gives incentives, say, with strings (4)

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